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Peyton Manning

Volume 2, No. 231 © EPSS 2004 MIDEAST EDITION SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2004

Hefty bonuses pay off in Marine re-enlistments

Takers could receive as much as \$30,000 for four more years

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Refreshing development

Army's 372nd Engineer
Group coordinates
construction of a much-needed
water purification system
in the Iraqi town of Albu Bali

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A villager fills a tank with clear, clean water from a purification system built with American money by Iraqi workers at the village of Albu Bali, Iraq. The system will provide 500 people with clean water for the first time in decades and is expected to save many lives.

RON JENSEN/Stars and Stripes

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Slain deer hunters: Mourners gathered at a funeral parlor on Thanksgiving Day to remember one of six deer hunters killed in a shooting in Wisconsin's northwoods last weekend. Friends and hunting buddies described 28-year-old Mark Roidt as a friendly, outgoing man, a jack-of-all-trades in carpentry and construction work who loved hunting, motorcycling and other motor sports.

"He's just a warm-hearted, good-spirited guy," said Sarah O'Donnell, who knew Roidt for 12 years.

His funeral was to be held for a victim of Sunday's shooting. Roidt's funeral was scheduled for Friday, with funerals for the others to be held Saturday or next week.

Authorities said the six were killed and two others wounded after a confrontation with a hunter from Minnesota who was trespassing on private land. Chai Vang, 36, remains held on \$2.5 million bail pending formal charges.

Court records show that Vang, an immigrant from Laos, told authorities that the hunters surrounded him and used racial slurs before one fired a shot at him. One of the survivors gave a different account, saying Vang started shooting first.

Scott Peterson trial: Rejected by the trial judge and an appeals court, Scott Peterson's lawyer asked the California Supreme Court on Wednesday for a new jury and a change of venue for the trial's penalty phase.

Attorney Mark Geros filed the motion a day after a state appeals court ruled Peterson's sentencing will be decided by the same jury that convicted him of murder Nov. 12. The three-judge panel of the 1st District Court of Appeals denied the petition just hours after Geros filed it.

After a five-month trial, Peterson, 32, was convicted of one count of first-degree murder in the death of his pregnant wife, Laci, and one count of second-degree murder for the death of her fetus. The penalty phase is scheduled to begin in Redwood City on Tuesday.

Geros claims the jury that found Peterson guilty is now tainted by public opinion, citing a frenzied mob who cheered outside the courthouse as the guilty verdicts were read and "abnormally huge" newspaper headlines.

GOP convention lawsuit: Saying New York City officials had created their "own little Guantanamo on the Hudson" during the Republican National convention, a lawyer filed a lawsuit on behalf of nearly 2,000 people arrested at demonstrations.

The federal lawsuit filed Monday claims protesters and bystanders alike were rounded up in mass arrests without cause; were kept without access to their lawyers or families at an old bus depot used as a temporary detention center; and were exposed for days to cruel and inhuman conditions.

The lawsuit asks for unspecified damages.

"All that was missing were the orange jumpsuits," the lawyer, Jonathan C. Moore, said. "Under the guise of terrorism and the fear of terrorism, we are all losing our rights."

Business

W.R. Grace & Co. woes: W.R. Grace & Co. said Friday it is likely to be indicted in the first quarter of 2005 by a federal grand



Visiting with troops during the holiday: Afghan President Hamid Karzai, right, meets with the head of U.S. Central Command, Gen. John Abizaid, in the presidential palace in Kabul on Friday. Abizaid, who commands American forces in both Iraq and Afghanistan, met with Karzai after visiting troops for Thanksgiving.

jury in Montana if it cannot reach a settlement with prosecutors over possible violations of federal environmental laws.

In a Form 8-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, the chemical company said it had received a letter from the U.S. Attorney for the District of Montana on Oct. 29 informing the company of the investigation, which relates to the company's former vermiculite mining and processing activities in Libby, Mont.

W.R. Grace said it is likely to be indicted early next year unless it reaches a resolution with the government.

World

Abducted U.N. workers: Three U.N. workers, including a Filipino, held captive for almost a month in Afghanistan were "voluntarily released" by their captors and were not rescued by the military, a Philippine official said Friday.

"They were voluntarily, intentionally dropped off," Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Jose Brillantes told reporters. "There was no military rescue that led directly to the deliverance of the hostages."

A militant group linked to the former hardline Taliban regime claimed to have held Filipino diplomat Angelito Nayan, Annetta Flanigan of Northern Ireland and Kosovar Shipke Hebbi after they were seized on Oct. 28 in Kabul.

Convicted Muslim cleric: A Muslim cleric convicted of inciting violence against women has been ordered to serve a previously suspended prison sentence because of the "social danger" he poses.

Mohamed Kamal Mustafa, imam at the mosque in the southern town of Fuenigrola, Spain, received a court order Wednesday to serve his 15-month sentence behind bars.

Mustafa was sentenced in January in Barcelona, but his prison term was suspended because it was his first conviction — a normal practice in Spain for sentences under two years.

Mexico mob killing: Investigators have identified at least six people suspected of burning alive two federal agents they believed were kidnappers, federal authorities said Thursday.

The six were among 31 people captured during a massive raid on San Juan Ixtayopan, a town on outskirts of Mexico City where dozens of locals on Tuesday severely beat three plainclothes federal agents, then killed two by throwing paint thinner on them and setting them ablaze, said Deputy Attorney General Gilberto Higueria.

Among those arrested in the vigilante slayings was a 16-year-old boy, Higueria said at a news conference. He refused to confirm radio and newspaper reports that the youngster was the one who started the fires, however.

Gitmo military tribunals: An alleged high-ranking official of the ousted Taliban regime was among three prisoners who appeared Wednesday before U.S. military review tribunals in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

The 46-year-old former Taliban official had a Kalashnikov rifle when captured and has been held at the U.S. naval base in Guantanamo for about a year, said Navy Lt. Gary Ross, a spokesman for the Combatant Status Review Tribunals.

Ross declined to say what position the prisoner held in the Taliban government or if he ever engaged in combat.

The military only releases unclassified portions of the allegations against prisoners who go before the review tribunals, which are meant to determine whether the 550 detainees in Guantanamo are correctly held as "enemy combatants" or should be freed.

Six-way nuclear talks: Representatives of six nations trying to end a dispute over North Korea's nuclear weapons development will hold informal talks in Beijing in mid-December, a news report said Friday.

Chief delegates of the six nations would meet for two or three days between Dec. 15 and Dec. 23, said South Korea's KBS-TV, quoting a senior South Korean government official.

KBS quoted the official as indicating that North Korea agreed to join the discussions aimed at settling the date and other terms for reopening official talks between the Koreans, China, Japan, Russia and the United States.

Foreign Ministry officials could not confirm the report.

Al-Qaida members released: Yemeni authorities have released 113 militants belonging to the al-Qaida network — including at least five once accused of involvement in the deadly bombing of the USS Cole — after they recanted their extremist views, security officials said Thursday.

The militants once accused in the USS Cole bombing were later released.

The 15 Yemeni militants convicted in August of involvement in the 2000 bombing, which killed 17 U.S. sailors, were not released.

The 113 men were released during the past two weeks after signing pledges not to carry out terror acts or criminal activities.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

Green Zone attack kills 4 British employees

Rebel ambush in Fallujah leaves two Marines dead, three wounded

BY MARIAM FAM
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — A mortar attack killed four employees of a British security firm and wounded at least 12 in Baghdad's Green Zone, a fortified area that houses the U.S. and Iraqi leadership, the company and British officials said Friday.

Insurgents in Fallujah ambushed U.S. troops as they entered a home during house-to-house searches in the former rebel bastion, killing two Marines and wounding three others, the U.S. military said Friday. In the northern city of Mosul, 21 bodies have been found in the past two days and in around the area shaken by an insurgent uprising, the U.S. military said Friday. In all, 41 corpses have been discovered in the past week.

Britain's Foreign Office said the four security workers for London-based Global Risk Strategies killed in Baghdad were former Gurkhas, renowned Nepalese soldiers.

"The mortar landed in their camp," said a Foreign Office official on condition of anonymity Tim J. O'Brien, spokesman for Global Risk Strategies, said the attack was on Thursday, when multiple explosions were heard and black smoke was seen rising from the fortified zone on the western bank of the Tigris River.

"There was an incident yesterday. We lost four people and had 12 to 15 who were injured," he said. "We can't confirm what the incident actually was until we go through internal investigations."

O'Brien declined to identify the victims.

In Fallujah, Lt. Gen. John F. Sattler, commanding general of the

1st Marine Expeditionary Force, said the Marines ambushed Thursday by insurgents when searching a home responded with gunfire, killing three rebels hiding inside.

U.S. troops are conducting clearing operations after a massive weekend U.S.-led assault that began Nov. 8.

"We will continue to clear out houses till every one is secure. We've taken more and more of their safe houses. They're running out of places to hide," he said.

Sattler vowed the city 40 miles west of Baghdad will be safe in time for next January's nationwide elections.

Mosul, Iraq's third-largest city, was the site of a mass insurgent uprising in apparent support of Fallujah guerrillas following the assault on that rebel stronghold. U.S. and Iraqi forces were sent in to retake parts of the city but insurgents have managed to hit back.

"It's a continued campaign of threats, intimidation and murder by insurgents to spread fear into the public. Their campaign has been directed at what appears to be Iraqi security forces," said Lt. Col. Paul Hastings, a spokesman with Task Force Olympia.

Eleven of the 41 bodies found around Mosul have been identified as members of the Iraqi security forces. The others have not been identified. Six were found Friday and 15 were discovered the day before, U.S. officials said.

Twenty other bodies have been found in Mosul since Nov. 18. At least 10 of the bodies — nine of them shot execution-style — belonged to the Iraqi regular army, based at the al-Kisik military base about 31 miles west of



AP photos

U.S. soldiers patrol Fallujah, Iraq, on Friday. Insurgents ambushed troops as they entered a home during house-to-house searches in the former rebel bastion of the city, killing two Marines and wounding three others, the U.S. military said.

Mosul, near Tal Afar. Four of the bodies were decapitated.

"I cannot speak to the motive or the level of detail and planning. I just know that since the uprising, ... there's been accelerated and very deliberate attacks on Iraqi security forces," Hastings said.

U.S. and Iraqi troops were hit

by mortars, rocket-propelled grenades and small-arms fire as they were retrieving two of the bodies found Thursday, according to Lt. Col. Eric Kurilla of the Army's 1st Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment.

The U.S. military spotted at least one team of insurgents firing at them. One Iraqi National Guardsman suffered minor injuries, according to Kurilla.

Iraqi security forces in Mosul arrested four people Thursday night accused of providing money and information to insurgents, officials said Friday.

Maj. Gen. Rashid Felehi, commander of a special Interior Ministry force sent from Baghdad, said Iraqi forces said three are accused of financing terror operations and the fourth of providing insurgents with information.

On Thursday, National Security Adviser Qassem Dawoud said a key lieutenant to al-Zarqawi had been captured a few days ago in Mosul, identifying him only as Abu Saeed.

Iraqi officials have said that al-Zarqawi, along with other insurgent leaders, had escaped from Fallujah during the U.S.-led assault earlier in the month. Al-Zarqawi heads an al-Qaida linked terror group believed responsible for numerous car bombings and beheadings of foreign hostages.

Also Friday, Navy Secretary Gordon R. England warned of

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Thursday, at least 1,230 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 961 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said.

The figures include three military civilians.

The Defense Department did not provide an update Thursday.

The British military has reported 74 deaths: Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary and Latvia have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,092 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 852 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ No new deaths reported. The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ No new identifications reported.

more violence in Iraq ahead of the country's nationwide elections but said U.S. and Iraqi forces will prevail in securing the vote.

"There will be efforts to disrupt the elections," England said on a visit to Marines at a camp outside Fallujah. "The insurgents don't want the elections to be held and certainly not that they be successful. But we will prevail."

In the southern city of Basra, Iraqi forces arrested four insurgents who said they were planning attacks against coalition bases and police stations, officials said Friday, a day after a joint British-Iraqi operation netted three dozen men in the area.

Iraqi National Guardsmen arrested the four after a brief gunfight at the al-Yarmouk Hotel. Three of the men came from Fallujah and the fourth from Samarra, according to an Iraqi National Guard official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The four men told Iraqi officials they were planning attacks in southern Basra, which is the headquarters for some 8,500 British troops, in an attempt to relieve the U.S. military pressure on Fallujah.

One of the insurgents was injured during the gunfight and weapons were found in their hotel room, the Iraqi official said.

Near the northern city of Kirkuk, gunmen attacked a police station in Rasheed Thursday night, killing one policeman and injuring three, police said Friday.



Iraqi police display arrested drug smugglers with their drugs in Basra, Iraq, on Friday. The arrests followed an operation Thursday where Iraqi National Guardsmen and police commandos, backed by coalition forces, raided several locations in the town of Zubayr, just west of Basra, said British spokesman Maj. Charlie Mayo.

Big bonuses drawing more Marine re-enlistees

BY TONY PERRY
Los Angeles Times

"No amount of money is too much to retain combat experience in the corps, rather than starting over."

SAN DIEGO — With the prospect of continued fighting in Iraq, the Marine Corps is offering bonuses of as much as \$30,000 — in some cases, tax-free — to persuade enlisted personnel with combat experience and training to re-enlist.

The plan is working, officials said. Fewer than two months into the fiscal year, Marine re-enlistment rates in several key specialties are running 10 percent to 30 percent ahead of last year.

Officials are confident that, by midyear, they will have reached their target for encouraging re-enlistment among riflemen, the "grunts" who are key to the Marines' ability to mount offensives against insurgent strongholds such as Fallujah, Iraq.

In most cases, the young Marines are agreeing to stay in their current jobs for four years. In others, they are allowed to transfer into jobs that the brass considers equally vital: recruiters, embassy guards and boot camp drill instructors.

"No amount of money is too much to retain combat experience in the corps, rather than starting over," said Maj. Mark Menotti, assistant head of enlist-

ment bonuses for the Marine Corps.

Giving bonuses to encourage Marines to re-enlist is not a new program. But this year's bonus schedule marks the first time that "combat arms" specialties have received the largest of the bonuses.

A year ago, the top bonus for a grunt was about \$7,000.

Along with riflemen, machine-gunners, and mortar-men, specialties also receiving sizable bonuses are those critical to success in Iraq — including intelligence officers and Arabic linguists.

Lance Cpl. Matthew Jee, 21, of Borrego Springs, Calif., received a bonus of \$19,000 to re-enlist for four years. An assault-man with expertise in firing the Javelin rocket, he plans to shift to the intelligence field.

"They need a grunt's view of what kind of intelligence you need when you're out there on the street," Jee said at Camp Pendleton, where he recently returned after seven months in Iraq.

Sgt. Joey W. McBroom, 30, of Lafayette, Tenn., a rifleman, said that he had planned to re-enlist even without the bonus, but that the \$28,039 "helped my wife to agree to my re-enlisting."

In an e-mail from Iraq, McBroom said he plans to put 40 percent of the bonus in a mutual fund, 30 percent in an account for his children's college, 15 percent in savings and the remaining 15 percent for "a nice wedding ring for the wife, finally."

Another rifleman, Cpl. Anthony Mazzola, 23, of Fort Worth, Texas, has more immediate plans for his \$21,700. "I plan to take all of my money to Vegas and have a crazy weekend," he e-mailed from Iraq.

The Marine Corps has earmarked \$52 million in bonuses for the fiscal year that started Oct. 1, up from \$51 million in 2004.

Two-thirds of the bonus money will go to Marines re-enlisting for a second hitch. One-third will go to enlisted Marines signing up for a third or fourth tour. Officers

Maj. Mark Menotti

U.S. Marine Corps assistant head of enlisted retention

— except in particularly difficult to retain specialties such as aviation and law — are not eligible for bonuses.

The amount of the individual bonus is determined by a formula involving the length of re-enlistment, how early the Marine makes the commitment to re-enlist and a multiplier determined by the commandant of the Marine Corps.

Among other things, the multiplier involves a statistical analysis of how much money will be needed to ensure that enough Marines re-enlist in a particular specialty.

Take, for example, a sergeant trained in tank warfare. If the sergeant re-enlists for four years, his bonus is determined by multiplying his monthly pay — \$1,817 — by four. That figure then is multiplied by four, a rate set by Marine officials for his skill.

The highest skill multiplier is five.

For the sergeant, the bonus computes to \$29,072. If he re-enlists while in Iraq, his bonus, like his regular pay, is tax-exempt.

For grunts, the bonuses are also a sign of recognition. Cpl. Steven Forrester, 22, a machine-gunner from Centerville, Tenn., said he was "glad they finally realized our job is dangerous." He received \$22,796.

Cpl. William Stoffers, 22, a machine-gunner from Redding, Calif., said the size of the bonus for his specialty was a pleasant surprise. "I think it's fitting to have this amount because we are put through more stressful things than a normal Marine," Stoffers, who is in Iraq, e-mailed; his total was \$21,000.

Among combat veterans, there is a sense that they are being paid for having learned things that cannot be taught at the school of infantry. Many are eager to pass that knowledge to others.

Cpl. William Jones, 22, of Tulsa, Okla., a rifleman, received a bonus of \$19,000 and now wants to teach Navy medical corpsmen how to handle combat. "The more Marines we have over there, the better off the corps is going to be," he said. "It's going to cost money, but it will save lives."

Sgt. Deveron Lochard, 23, from Lakeville, Mass., a machine-gunner who received a bonus of \$23,000, wants to become a drill instructor and, once he becomes a U.S. citizen, an officer.

Iraq political groups urge postponing elections

BY MAGGIE MICHAEL
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Seventeen mostly Sunni Arab, Kurdish and secular political parties Friday demanded postponement of the Jan. 30 elections for at least six months until the government is capable of securing polling places.

The parties made the call in a manifesto signed Friday at the home of Sunni elder statesman Abdul Pachachi, who said he believed the government was waiting for such a request before seriously addressing the question of whether an election could be held by the end of January.

"The government is waiting for an initiative from the political parties to deal with the existing problems related to the timing of the elections," Pachachi said.

During the meeting, which was also attended by three Cabinet members, some hinted that Prime Minister Ayad Allawi is intentionally stepping back, leaving the stage open for political parties to demand postponement of the elections.

Abdulkhader Abdul Hamid, leader of the Iraqi Islamic Party, said Allawi fears the government will be misunderstood if it requested a delay.

"The government can't talk about that," Abdul Hamid said, adding that Allawi called upon the political parties "to agree among each other and to talk to the international Nations so nobody would think that the government wants to remain in power for a longer period of time."

The head of the Independent Electoral Commission, Abdul-Hussein al-Hindawi, said it was too early to comment, but added that the commission "will study" the request Saturday.

Many in the majority Shiite community strongly support holding the elections on time but there is widespread doubt within the minority Sunni community because of insurgent unrest in Sunni regions of central and northern Iraq.

Sunni clerics from the Association of Muslim Scholars have called on Sunnis to boycott the election to protest this month's U.S.-led assault on the insurgent stronghold of Fallujah.

A widespread boycott by the Sunni community could deny the elected parliament and government the legitimacy that U.S. and Iraqi authorities believe is necessary to help bring stability to Iraq and curb the insurgency.

Abdul Hamid said that delaying the election was necessary because of "threats facing national unity, and fears of inciting sectarian tensions if a certain sect was excluded from the elections," referring to the Sunnis.

He said that the public polls conducted by his party in Basra, Mosul, Salaheddin, Baghdad, Kirkuk and Anbar provinces, occupied by some 15 million Iraqis — showed that people are too afraid to participate in national voting.

"The people of those provinces will not go to the balloting centers. Everybody is afraid — from the one who distributes the vot-



A deserted street in Fallujah affected by recent fighting on Friday. U.S. troops have continued clearing operations in Fallujah, which came under a massive week-long U.S.-led assault that began Nov. 8. Seventeen political parties demanded that Iraqi elections be postponed for at least six months because of security concerns.

ers' forms to the candidates to the voters," he said.

Other politicians said that the government was incapable of protecting voters from terror attacks if they tried to cast ballots.

Mohel Hardan al-Duleimi of the Arab Socialist Movement said that the government's election commission had failed to educate the public about the election.

"There is strong political polarization with sectarian roots," al-Duleimi said.

Others urged national reconciliation as a step toward holding elections and hinted that ousted Baath Party members should be included in the political process.

Minister of Electricity Ayham al-Samerai, a senior member of the Independent Democratic

Party, said that "not all Baathists are pro-Saddam; we have to give all Iraqis, except the criminals, a fair opportunity to be represented."

Al-Samerai said that taking such a step would go toward "solving the security crisis and pave the way for the elections to take place."

However his comments provoked opposition, mainly from Allawi's group, the Iraqi National Accord party.

"No reconciliation with terrorists or anybody who holds weapons in front of our national security forces or the Iraqi people," said party member Rasim al-Awadi. "No negotiations with the terrorists."

A prominent Shiite political analyst, Ayad Gamal Eldin, said he believed postponing the election too often will lead to a deterioration in the security situation.

Gamal Eldin said he feared that if elections aren't held, insurgents will continue to attack the current government and become more militant and "they will continue their sabotaging acts."

The political parties that signed the petition include the Kurdistan Democratic Party and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, the Christian Between the Two Rivers National party, the Sunni Tribal Leaders Council and the Unmuh Party.

The Jan. 30 elections will allow the public to vote for a National Assembly that will select a new cabinet and oversee the drafting of a national constitution. The number of political parties registered until now has reached 217.

Troops work to get Iraqis fresh water

BY RON JENSEN

Stars and Stripes

ALBU BALI, Iraq — Water — cool, clear and clean — is poured Wednesday from a pipe and into the waiting trailer a local man had pulled there with his tractor.

Water this pure has been a fantasy around these parts for decades. The locals have been drinking, cooking and laundering with filthy, putrid brown water from the nearby Tigris River and its adjoining canals, water used by livestock to cool off and water chock-full of illness-causing bacteria.

Col. Gary Braddock, commander of the 372nd Engineer Group, part of the Army Reserve from Des Moines, Iowa, said he often visits villages in the area to ask what is needed and hears one answer over and over.

"That is the single most important thing I can do for them — give them clean water," he said soon after sparking water started flowing at Abu Bali, a tiny, isolated village on the river's banks.

The new purification system, paid for by American dollars but built with Iraqi labor, will provide clean water to more than 500 people, said Ismail Khaleel, the local village leader on whose land the system was built.

"It's very important for the village," he said, through a translator, "we drank water directly from the river, without any purification."

Now, the water still will come from the river, but it will be purified and chlorinated

372nd Engineer Group provides citizens of Abu Bali with needed purification system

before it is used.

Iraq has the second highest rate of infant mortality in the world, said Maj. Chuck Larson of the 372nd. One reason is the poor quality of drinking water. The \$36,000 spent to build the system now producing clean water will save many lives for many years.

The big day for Abu Bali was just the latest for several villages around Logistics Support Area Anaconda, the Army's sprawling supply base in Iraq.

The 13th Corps Support Command's civil affairs unit has completed 85 projects of various types since it arrived 10 months ago.

Those projects include 14 refurbished schools, three new schools, six health clinics, two police stations and an ongoing cleaning of a canal.

But the emphasis recently has been on water. "Five months ago we made a fundamental shift," said Col. Nick Zoeller, the corps' civil affairs officer. "We found out most of these people needed water."

"It's rewarding to see there is progress being made and the Iraqis are helping themselves. It's this kind of change that is going to prevent fighting in the future."

Capt. Dean Stouffer

The Abu Bali project is the fourth water project completed. Twenty more are under way.

The idea to place purification systems in the villages replaces a civil affairs plan started by another unit a year ago to drill wells. Zoeller said the wells came up dry or the water was too salty.

Zoeller said the idea of any project is to enhance the local economy at the same time. That's why Iraqi labor is used, the project going to the lowest bidder, just like in the States. So far, the projects have pumped \$4.5 million into the local economy.

Although the civil affairs troops get the projects going, tenant units at LSA Anaconda take charge of overseeing their completion through a program called Anaconda Neighborhood. For the water system, Marines building a bridge near the village kept an eye on construction.

"It's rewarding to see there is progress being made and the Iraqis are helping

themselves," said Capt. Dean Stouffer. "It's this kind of change that is going to prevent fighting in the future."

Planning for such projects has to consider the future, too — an Iraq without an American presence. For example, who will maintain the water system in Abu Bali?

Zoeller said that is now the responsibility of the man working for the province, as well as the local council. Zoeller said he doesn't want to happen is for Khaleel, who donated the land, to consider the water to be his property and try to sell it.

Maj. Steve Lancaster, deputy civil affairs officer, said, "If this falls apart when we leave, we've achieved nothing."

To that end, too, they try to spread around their projects to various factions, making sure one tribe is not favored over another.

The progress of these projects is painstakingly slow in a country that is about the size of California with a population of about 25 million. But schools by school, clinic by clinic, water system by water system, the civil affairs soldiers think they are having an impact.

Everywhere they lend a hand, Zoeller said, they make friends. That has a direct benefit on the 140,000 U.S. troops now stationed in this land and subject to attack from unfriendly Iraqis.

"We look at it as saving American lives when we do this," Zoeller said.

John Ron Jensen at: jensen@mil.estripes.com

Officer had no role in death of ailing Iraqi, relative says

The Associated Press

RAVENNA, Ohio — The uncle of a U.S. Army officer charged with murder in the shooting of a 16-year-old Iraqi says his nephew didn't even see the shots being fired.

A criminal investigator has said soldiers decided to shoot the severely injured Iraqi to put him "out of his misery."

The 1st Cavalry Division in Iraq announced Nov. 15 it had charged 2nd Lt. Erick J. Anderson with premeditated murder and conspiracy to commit premeditated murder. If tried and convicted, Anderson could face the death penalty.

Anderson's uncle, attorney Peter Lorenz of Ravenna in northeastern Ohio, said Wednesday that his nephew told him he "absolutely did not shoot" the Iraqi in August. Anderson was in the area but did not see anything, Lorenz said.

"He's a young kid who's scared to death, but he has said, 'I haven't done anything wrong,'" Lorenz said.

He said Anderson was charged because he was platoon leader of two other soldiers from his company who also have been charged with murder.



AKRON BEACON JOURNAL/AP

Peter Lorenz speaks about his nephew, U.S. Army 2nd Lt. Erick J. Anderson, at Lorenz's home in Kent, Ohio, on Wednesday. The 1st Cavalry Division has charged Anderson with premeditated murder in Iraq.

According to the witness accounts, on Aug. 17, a group of U.S. soldiers attempted to rescue an Iraqi from inside a burning truck in Baghdad. The victim had severe abdominal wounds and burns, and was thought by several of the witnesses to be beyond medical help.

Lorenz is assisting his nephew's military-appointed attorney in Iraq. He said a hearing is scheduled in Baghdad in mid-December.

Army Lt. Col. Steven Boylan, spokesman for the multinational forces in Iraq, said Anderson is awaiting an Article 32 hearing.

Iraq announces rebuilding plan for homes decimated in Fallujah fight

BY ASHRAF KHALIL

Los Angeles Times

BAGHDAD — Iraqi officials announced plans Thursday for a massive compensation program to rebuild thousands of homes damaged or destroyed during the recent conquest of Fallujah — a battle they said killed more than 2,000 insurgents.

"All the people of Fallujah will be compensated by the government, and all those whose homes have sustained damage will have them repaired or rebuilt by the government," Industry Minister Hachim Hassani said.

Although Hassani didn't state specific figures, the bill for the reconstruction campaign is likely to be massive, given the near-total destruction in many parts of the city.

Hassani, head of a joint ministerial committee overseeing reconstruction efforts in Al Anbar province, which includes Fallujah, said the government is preparing to care for as many as 300,000 refugees of Fallujah who fled to neighboring towns before the assault.

Minister of State and de facto national security adviser Kasim Daoud defended the ferocity of the Fallujah assault as not only necessary, but in sync with the wishes of the Iraqi people.

"I doubt that there is any sympathy for these terrorists from ordinary Iraqi citizens," he said.

"We tried to deal with them in a peaceful manner, but they took it as a sign of weakness on the part of the Iraqi government. This is why we are forced to take a tough stance now."

Daoud said 90 percent of Fallujah was under control. Cleanup operations were expected to eliminate pockets of resistance in the southeastern neighborhoods within "a few days," said Daoud, who placed the most recent estimate of insurgents killed in Fallujah at 2,085. Another 1,300 suspected fighters remain in detention.

As military operations wind down in Fallujah, the Iraqi government announced plans to meet with former high-ranking Baath Party members in exile.

Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zubeiri, returning from a recent international conference on Iraq in Sharm el Sheik, Egypt, said several Arab governments had asked him to bring exiled Baathists into the country's fledgling and fragile political process.

Zubeiri didn't give specifics on the timing of the meetings, or who would be invited. But he

said the talks would be held in Jordan and would exclude anyone actively involved in Iraq's insurgency.

"We want to expand the participation of those Iraqis, as long as they denounce terror," he said.

Adnan Pachachi, a former foreign minister and a member of the Iraqi National Council, said delaying the ballot at least three months would enable political leaders to convince Sunni clerics and others to abandon calls for an election boycott.

Despite the Fallujah operation and the political discussions, violence continued.

In Samarra, 80 miles north of Baghdad, militants detonated a pair of car bombs, injuring six police officers and at least four other people.

Last month, U.S. and Iraqi forces wrested control of the city from a Baathist officer, an assault that proved a precursor to the Fallujah campaign.

But Samarra remains an insurgent hotspot. Most recently, a series of clashes and bombing in early November killed 36 people, including 26 police officers.

The bill for the reconstruction campaign is likely to be massive, given the near-total destruction in many parts of the city.

Raise in vets' benefits caps fruitfulness

A lame-duck and bitterly divided Congress found comity enough in mid-November to pass three bills that will raise veterans' benefits, improve pay for Department of Veterans Affairs doctors and strengthen veterans' legal rights.

The bills cap another year of steady pay gains and benefit grants for a military community that lawmakers recognize is under enormous strain.

Besides passing the veterans bills, a worried Congress this year passed to reverse some of the post-Cold War drawdown, voting to raise active Army forces by 20,000 and Marines by 3,000. Top pay initiatives this year include a 3.5 percent raise and the last of a series of above-average increases in Basic Allowance for Housing, both to occur in January.

With 182,000 Reserve and Guard members still mobilized, and many serving yearlong combat tours, Congress is anxious to improve benefits and avoid a recruiting and retention crisis. But lawmakers also began to hear Bush administration warnings about cost and to link new benefits to continued service.

Reservists, for example, will see better education benefits but only if they were mobilized for at

least 90 days. By May, drilling reservists will be able to buy Tri-care Standard coverage at a reasonable rate. But the offer is open only to those who were mobilized. They are entitled to a year's coverage for every 90 days of activated service.

Military retirees and survivors scored a huge victory when Congress voted to phase in by April 2008 a sharp drop in Survivor Benefit Plan payments that occurs at age 62. All current and future participants stand to gain but the first group to see higher payments, by October, will be 270,000 SBP recipients already 62 or older.

The other big winners from the legislation year are 15,000 retirees with 20 or more years of service and disability ratings of 100 percent. On Jan. 1, they will see their military retired pay restored. Congress voted to accelerate for this group a planned 10-year phase-out of the ban on "contract receipt" of both military retirement and disability pay.

Tops among the three new veterans bills passed and sent to the White House for signature is the Veterans Benefits Improvement Act (S 2486). This bill will:

■ open the active-duty Montgomery GI Bill to drilling reservists if they complete two consecu-

MILITARY UPDATE

Tom Philpott

tive years of active-duty service (they will have a year after deactivation to pay the required \$1,200 "buy-in" contribution);

■ increase by \$100 a month GI Bill payments for apprenticeship or on-the-job training (effective in October, these benefits will be \$853 a month for the first six months of training, \$653 a month for the second six months and \$452 for subsequent months, plus GI Bill coverage will be expanded to include competency-based apprenticeships as well as time-based ones);

■ increase to \$333,700 the maximum home loan amount allowed under the VA loan guaranty program (the VA currently guarantees 25 percent of a qualified home loan of up to \$240,000; the higher ceiling is the same used by the Freddie Mac home loan program, and like the Freddie Mac program, the VA amount will be adjusted to keep pace with inflation);

■ provide an additional \$250 a

month in Dependency and Indemnity Compensation, for two years, to surviving spouses who have children under age 18 (DIC is paid when a servicemember dies on active duty or a veteran dies from a service-connected disability);

■ require the VA to exclude life insurance payments from "income" when determining veterans' dead pension benefits;

■ restart VA guarantees for adjustable-rate mortgages, though 2008;

■ extend the VA's hybrid adjustable-rate mortgage loan program, which was set to expire next year (hybrid mortgage loans have a fixed rate for the first five years before they become adjustable);

■ increase from 18 months to 24 months the period that an employer must make available company health benefits to mobilized reservists;

■ clarify other legal protections under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act and the Servicemembers' Civil Relief Act, including that spouses too can terminate leases on apartments or cars, without financial penalty, when the member departs.

The VA Health Care Personnel Enhancement Act (S 2484) will increase pay to VA physicians and

dentists and allow more-flexible work schedules for its nurses. Doctors will move to a new three-tier system of basic pay, market pay and performance pay. Annual basic pay will run from \$90,000 to \$132,000. Additional "market pay" will be set based on VA needs and the health-care labor market. Performance pay will be tied to specific goals. It could not exceed \$15,000 or 7.5 percent of combined basic pay and market pay.

The same bill would allow the VA to pay nurses who work three 12-hour shifts as though they worked 40 hours; allow nurses to work full time for nine months, take off three months and be paid 75 percent of full-time pay throughout the year; allow the VA to offer \$10,000 to \$25,000 in annual special pay to nurse executives.

Finally, the Veterans Health Programs Improvement Act (HR 3936) would, among other things, end patient co-payments for VA health care. Basic care requires the VA to establish its first mild-trauma centers to study new treatments for the most severe type of war wounds, and increase assistance to homeless veterans by \$24 million a year, or about one-third.

To comment, write Military Update, P.O. Box 2111, Gettysburg, Pa. 17325-2111. E-mail: milupdate@aol.com or visit www.militaryupdate.com

Finnish take over Multinational Task Force-North

By KENT HARRIS

Stars and Stripes

TUZLA, Bosnia-Herzegovina — It's just a few days before he officially takes command of Multinational Task Force-North. But Finnish Brig. Gen. Juha Kiliä told the people of Bosnia they would notice a difference when he assumes control of an area that Americans have been in charge of since late 1995.

The transition, would be "seamless and have a minimal impact on the Bosnian people. We will maintain the same safe and secure environment that SFOR presented to us," he said during a news conference Friday.

It might not be much of a surprise if changes are minimal, because Finnish troops have been a part of the Stabilization Force mission for as long as Americans. In fact, Kiliä commands the Finnish battalion of troops that initially entered the country with its counterparts from the United States.

They're now lead one of the three sectors in Bosnia as the European Union takes over the mission from NATO on Thursday. The British lead the sector to the west and the French command the south. All told, Kiliä said there would be about 7,000 troops from 33 countries participating in Operation Althea — commonly being called EUFOR — of which 80 percent of the force already has been serving in SFOR. Members will essentially just change patches on their uniforms. In addition to the Ameri-

can pullout, Canadian forces departed as well.

Kiliä, whose rank is *prikaatinkenraali* in Finnish, will lead a multinational force at Eagle Base that will still use English to communicate with each other. Other countries with troops in the sector include: Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Ireland, Latvia, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Sweden and Turkey.

He said there would be roughly the same number of troops in the sector — about 1,800 — as there are now.

There will still be about 150 American troops at Eagle Base and 100 more near Sarajevo. All will be taking part in a continuing NATO mission under the command of U.S. Brig. Gen. Steven Schook.

U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Timothy Wright, the outgoing commander of Task Force Eagle, said he is confident of the EU force's ability to effectively control security in the sector.

"I am proud, very proud of them and their commitment to excellence," Wright said at the news conference. He also pointed out that American forces aren't totally abandoning missions in the country. The force under Schook will help train Bosnian forces, and they are in Partnership for Peace initiatives and continue to hunt for war criminals indicted by The Hague, in the Netherlands.

Gen. B.B. Bell, U.S. Army Europe commander, said earlier in the week that those thinking the pullout of most Americans presented an opportunity to cause



KENT HARRIS/Stars and Stripes

U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Timothy Wright, left, and Finnish Brig. Gen. Juha Kiliä answer questions during a news conference Friday in Tuzla, Bosnia-Herzegovina. Wright is giving up command of Task Force Eagle as Stabilization Force ends its mission. Kiliä will be the new commander of Multinational Task Force-North when the European Union takes over from NATO on Thursday.

trouble would be making a mistake. He said thousands of American soldiers in Italy and Germany could re-enter the country quickly if they were needed to support their European allies.

German peacekeepers

Meanwhile, German parliament on Friday cleared the way for its troops to take part in the new European Union-led peacekeeping mission in Bosnia-Herzegovina, where they have been serving in a NATO force since 1995.

The lower house voted over-

whelmingly, 383-7, for the deployment.

The EU force named Althea — the largest EU-led military operation so far — is taking over on Dec. 2.

It will total about 7,000 troops, similar to NATO's Stabilization Force in Bosnia-Herzegovina that has been there since the end of the 1992-1995 war.

Germany's contingent will remain at 1,100, Defense Minister Peter Struck told parliament Friday.

The Associated Press contributed to this story.

E-mail: Kent Harris at: harris@mil.eastripes.osd.mil

16,000 still missing, says Red Cross

The Associated Press

GENEVA — The International Red Cross said Thursday that it was still looking for 16,600 people missing from the war in Bosnia, almost a decade after the conflict in the Balkan nation.

"The sheer numbers express better than anything else the anxiety of so many who have lived so long in uncertainty," said Werner Kaspar, head of Bosnia operations at the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Since the end of the 1992-95 war, painstaking work by the Red Cross and other organizations has resolved 5,000 cases of missing people. Most have been confirmed dead, often through forensic analysis of bodies, ICRC officials said.

Bosnia is littered with mass graves, painful reminders of the conflict, which was marked by the slaughter of up to 8,000 Muslim men and boys in July 1995 when Bosnian Serbs overran the Muslim enclave of Srebrenica.

The Swiss-based ICRC has published six editions of its Book of Missing, listing the Bosnian conflict, listing names and places of disappearance of people whose fate thousands of families are trying to discover.

WORLD

Chinese police hunt for man in deadly knife attack

Suspect reportedly kills at least 8 students in dorm

The Associated Press



Police investigators inspect the site of a murder case Friday in the No. 2 High School in Ruzhou, a city in central China's Henan Province.

BEIJING — A man with a knife broke into a high school dormitory and killed as many as nine boys as they slept — the deadliest of a series of knife attacks at Chinese schools in recent months, the government said Friday.

Police were hunting for the man following the attack late Thursday at the No. 2 High School in the city of Ruzhou, government news agencies reported. They said the motive was under investigation.

The man broke into the dormitory at 11:45 p.m. and chopped eight people to death," the official Xinhua News Agency said. Another state-run outlet, the

China News Service, put the death toll at nine.

Ruzhou police refused to release any other information.

The China News Service said the attacker might have been a former student who had been expelled. It cited a survivor as saying that during the attack, the man with the knife said, "Don't blame me."

It was the fourth knife attack reported at a Chinese school or day care center in as many months. The earlier assaults left one child dead and a total of 42 people injured.

The spate of violence prompted the government of President Hu Jintao to

issue a nationwide order in September for schools to hire guards and tighten security.

The reason for the surge in knife attacks isn't clear. They have taken place throughout China and involve attackers from different backgrounds. In the only other fatal case until this week, an attacker at a Beijing kindergarten was reported to be an employee of the school who had a history of mental illness.

But China's cities and towns seethe with grudges and personal feuds amid wrenching economic and social change.

Fatal bombings, mass poisonings and other attacks are reported frequently, usually blamed on people trying to hurt business rivals or seeking revenge in often minor disputes.

Ukraine candidates meet for crisis talks

BY ALEKSANDAR VASOVIC

The Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine — President Leonid Kuchma on Friday met the two candidates at the center of Ukraine's presidential election crisis along with key European envoys, as opposition supporters blockaded government buildings.

The envoys arrived in Kiev in an effort to help solve the political crisis that has engulfed this ex-Soviet republic since Sunday's presidential election, which the West criticized as fraudulent.

Kuchma's government certified Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich as the winner, but Western-leaning Viktor Yushchenko claims he was robbed of victory.

"Only talks can resolve the difficult situation that was created after the election," Kuchma said at the start of the negotiations, according to his spokeswoman Olena Gromitska. "It can be resolved through compromise."

The meeting also included European Union foreign policy chief Javier Solana, Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski, Lithuanian President Valdas Adamkus and Boris Gryzlov, speaker of Russia's lower house of parliament. Jan Kubis, the head of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and Volodymyr Lytvyn,

speaker of the Ukrainian parliament, also participated.

Earlier, Kuchma thanked the European envoys for "making every effort so that these negotiations take place not on the street — which can never give a positive result — but around a negotiating table," the Interfax news agency quoted him as saying after meeting Solana and Kwasniewski.

"The situation is more than difficult," Kwasniewski told journalists.

Yushchenko had previously said he would negotiate only with Kuchma, and that the main condition for holding talks was the president's acknowledgment that the

Viktor Yanukovich
presidential candidate

election was invalid.

But Kuchma hasn't shown any sign of backing down.

"Any revolution must end in peace," Kuchma said in a televised statement. "The sooner this so-called revolution ends, the better it will be for the Ukrainian people."

Ukraine, a nation of 48 million, has been seized by an ever-escalating political crisis since Sunday's vote. Thousands of Yushchenko supporters have set up a sprawling tent camp along a main avenue and square in Kiev, braving freezing temperatures for five straight nights.

Yanukovich, meanwhile, rallied some

2,000 supporters waving his blue-and-white campaign flags in front of Kiev's train station.

Many had apparently arrived in buses and trains from Ukraine's industrial east, Yanukovich's main support base.

"I don't need power at the cost of spilled blood," Yanukovich said in remarks broadcast on the pro-Yanukovich TRK Ukraine television.

In Cherniviv, about 80 miles north of Kiev, police fired smoke grenades over the heads of a pro-Yushchenko crowd after someone threw an "explosive packet" at a police cordon outside the mayor's office, police spokeswoman Raisa Deikun said. Two policemen were hospitalized, she said. It was not immediately clear what the explosive packet was. Deikun said the protesters had been trying to seize the mayor's office.

In Kiev, protesters standing five deep and linking arms blockaded the Cabinet building where Yanukovich works and refused to let staff enter.

Protesters also blocked surrounding streets with buses and vans decorated with Yushchenko's orange flags, posters and ribbons.

Protesters also surrounded the presidential administration building, which was heavily guarded by police in riot gear.

The Supreme Court has ordered the election's final results not be published pending an appeal filed by Yushchenko's camp. The appeal will be heard Monday, and Yanukovich cannot be inaugurated until results are published.

WTO approves sanctions on U.S. exports

BY JONATHAN FOWLER

The Associated Press

GENEVA — The World Trade Organization on Friday approved strict sanctions on a wide range of American exports that could include cod, heavy machinery and apples intended to punish the United States for failing to repeal what it considers protectionist legislation, a trade diplomat said.

"It's been approved," said Amina C. Mohamed, a Kenyan ambassador to the WTO and chairwoman of the organization's dispute settlement body.

The European Union and other plaintiffs sought formal WTO authorization to retaliate by imposing new duties against various U.S. products. Among the potential targets are cars, textiles, glassware, mobile homes and apples.

The WTO dispute settlement body had been scheduled to take the action Wednesday, but U.S. trade diplomats held last-minute talks with counterparts from the European Union and countries including Canada and India.

Although U.S. officials declined to comment, the move was believed to have followed wrangling after Washington requested fine-tuning of documents submitted to the WTO.

The 2000 law, named for Sen. Robert Byrd, D-W.Va., was written with the steel industry in mind. It was ruled illegal two years ago by the 148-nation WTO following a complaint spearheaded by the EU.

The contested law allows American companies to receive proceeds from duties levied on foreign rivals for alleged "dumping" — selling goods at below-market prices, making it impossible for American producers to compete.

The WTO backed claims that the amendment breaks trade laws by punishing exporters to the United States twice because they are first fined, and then those fines are passed on to their competitors.

In August, a WTO arbitrator approved penalties of up to 72 percent of the money collected from foreign exporters and handed to American companies and said the winners in the case should submit lists of potential targets. Under WTO rules, however, formal authorization must come from the dispute settlement body.

Diplomats: Iran, EU close to resolving uranium dispute

BY GEORGE JAHN

The Associated Press

VIENNA, Austria — Iran and European negotiators reached a tentative compromise committing Tehran to freezing a program that can make nuclear-weapons grade uranium, but Tehran still had to approve the agreement, diplomats said Friday.

The compromise means Iran must give up its insistence on exempting 20 centrifuges from a total freeze of all uranium enrichment activities, one of the diplomats said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

But instead of putting International Atomic Energy Agency seals on the equipment, the centrifuges would be monitored by IAEA cameras, said the diplomat, who is familiar with Iran's nuclear dossier.

Other diplomats said the details still had to be finalized before the agreement was formally announced, but confirmed the essence of the deal. One senior European Union diplomat said the Europeans and the IAEA were still awaiting approval from Tehran Differences between the European and Iranian interpretations of an agreement for Tehran to freeze to freeze all uranium enrichment activities — which can produce electricity or weapons — raised fears that the agreement would be scuttled.

Iran had demanded that it be allowed to operate 20 centrifuges.

The EU says the Nov. 7 deal mandates a suspension of all activities related to enrichment, including running the centrifuges, which spin gas into fuel-level or weap-

one-grade uranium. The freeze was to last for at least as long as it took the two sides to discuss a pact to provide Iran with EU technical assistance, economic aid and other concessions.

The proposed solution — video cameras instead of agency seals — would allow the Iranians to save face, an EU delegate said.

The proposed deal also commits Iran to a pledge not to reprocess plutonium — which it would be able to do in seven years' time, once it completes work on a heavy water reactor in the city of Arak.

The EU deal envisages helping Iran build a light-water reactor — from which extraction of weapons grade nuclear material is difficult — diplomats said the Europeans hoped the plan would encourage Iran not to complete its heavy water facility.

Jenkins gets early release for good behavior

BY ERIC TALMADGE
The Associated Press

TOKYO — For nearly four decades, he was the prisoner of the North Koreans. The U.S. Army deserter Charles Jenkins came to Japan this year, faced a court-martial and was jailed for three weeks.

On Saturday, he was to get a taste of freedom.

U.S. military officials said Jenkins, 64, was to be released early for good behavior from his 30-day sentence for abandoning his Army unit in 1965 and defecting



Jenkins

outside of Tokyo, where he was expected to stay for a short time before moving to his Japanese wife's hometown in northern

to North Korea, where he lived for 39 years.

Jenkins was to be flown by helicopter to the Army base at Camp Zama, from jail at the U.S. naval base in Yokosuka to the U.S. Army base at Camp Zama, outside of Tokyo, where he was expected to stay for a short time before moving to his Japanese wife's hometown in northern

Japan.

For Jenkins, a native of Rich Square, N.C., the trip has been long and strange.

Jenkins, then an Army sergeant, claims he left his unit on Jan. 5, 1965, primarily because he was afraid of being reassigned to face combat in Vietnam.

In his Nov. 3 court-martial, he said he had intended to cross into North Korea, then defect to the Soviet Embassy and eventually make his way back to the United States.

Instead, the communist regime in Pyongyang kept him there for

39 years along with three other American deserters. He was used as a propaganda tool in broadcasts across the Demilitarized Zone between North and South Korea and was forced to teach English to North Korean military officer cadets, he said.

Two of the other three Americans have since died, but the third, James Dresnok of Richmond, Va., still lives in the United States.

Dresnok was a private when he crossed into North Korea in 1962.

During his court-martial, Jenkins described a hard-scrabble ex-

istence in the isolated Stalinist state.

Two U.S. military sources confirmed that he was being released on Saturday, nearly a week early, for good behavior.

He will remain on the base until his formal discharge is completed. After that, Jenkins may still not be completely separated from the Army; until his automatic appeal process is completed, he could remain on "involuntary excess leave" status for one to two years.

Jenkins' release ends the long-desertion case on U.S. record.

Israelis survey new political landscape after Arafat's death

BY DANICA KIRKA
The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Even in death, Israel can't let Yasser Arafat go. For four decades he was the target of their loathing and their jokes — the flamboyant figure in fatigues and checkered headscarf, the arch-terrorist they blamed for many of their ills.

Though his lips and hands trembled in recent years, many Israelis thought the master survivor would live forever. Now everyone from satirists to the prime minister is struggling to figure out what life will be like without Arafat. They're glad he's gone, yet worried about who might replace him.

Tuvia Tsafir, doyen of Israel's comic impersonators, has decided that even Arafat's death in Paris at age 75 won't force him off the stage. He's creating a sketch in which the Palestinian leader returns from the grave to haunt his contemporaries.

"I have in mind to bring him down from the heavens," said Tsafir. "We can't get rid of him!"

Israelis wonder whether the successor to be picked in a January election will be more interested in striking a deal, or follow Arafat's legacy and fight on.

"The problem is they (Arafat's successors) don't have enough

power," said 66-year-old Shlomo Ben Haim, having coffee with a friend at a Jerusalem mall. "There is no other group that can be that strong."

Even if a partner for negotiations can be found, Israelis lack trust, blaming Arafat for the collapse of 1990s peace deals and ensuing violence.

"The sense is we've been burned once, we're not going to be burned again," said Mark Heller of Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies. Israelis "will want to wait and see how things develop. There's certainly a sense of relief that Arafat is out of the way — but how much of it was Arafat and how much of it was the political culture."

Palestinians blame Arafat for the collapse of negotiations, pointing to the expansion of Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip as a prime example of bad faith.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon finds himself in unpredictable territory. Accusing Arafat of fomenting terrorism, Sharon shunned him and plans a unilateral withdrawal from Gaza without negotiating with the Palestinians. That plan stands, Sharon says, regardless of who succeeds Arafat.

"Until now, there has been a general consensus that we didn't have any partners for peace as



In February, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat waved a portrait of imprisoned Fatah leader Marwan Barghout during a reception for Palestinians freed from Israeli jails at his compound in Ramallah. Jailed uprising leader Barghout will seek the presidency of the Palestinian Authority, an official in the ruling Fatah movement said Thursday.

long as Arafat was alive," said David Kimche, a former director general of Israel's Foreign Ministry. "Well, now that he's not around any more, the big question is whether the Israeli government will admit that it does have partners for peace."

Assuming leadership of the Palestinians, at least until Jan. 9 elections, is PLO chief Mahmoud Abbas, an unassuming man in a business suit. Abbas rose to prominence last year during a prime stint as the first Palestinian prime minister.

Actress covers up

JERUSALEM — It looks like Sarah Jessica Parker is too sexy for some Israeli tastes.

A poster and billboard campaign showing the "Sex and the City" actress in a skimpy, sequined dress was quickly replaced with new ads of her in a dress that covered her arms, back and thigh, reportedly after ultra-Orthodox consumers objected to her outfit.

The sexy ads promoting Lux soaps had begun appearing on billboards across the country in recent days. But after an angry phone call from a prominent rabbi, the consumer goods giant Unilever quickly gave Parker a more modest wardrobe, the Haaretz daily reported.

Cooking for a cause

SYDNEY, Australia — Aid workers and celebrity chefs created a stir on the banks of Sydney Harbor on Friday by cooking up what they hoped will be the world's largest risotto — a seven-ton tub of rice and peas — to raise awareness of world hunger.

"There are literally tens of thousands of children dying every week from malnutrition," said Robert Glasser, Chief Executive of Aid agency CARE Australia.

He said the Sydney cook off also should raise awareness of the role rice can play in combating world hunger.

Snake charmers irked

BHUBANESHWAR, India — A group of snake charmers has threatened to release poisonous cobras and pythons in the legislature of the eastern Indian state of Orissa if authorities continue to prevent them from holding roadside shows.

Wildlife officials arrested half a dozen snake charmers this week in Bhubaneswar, the capital of Orissa, and other towns, seizing pythons and cobras they use in their acts.

That infuriated the snake charmers of Orissa. "We will be left with no option but to release nearly 5,000 poisonous snakes in our possession into the state secretariat building and the state legislature if forest officials continue to harass us in the name of wildlife protection," Kedar Das, a snake charmer, told reporters Thursday.

From The Associated Press

WHO: Asia bird flu could cause global pandemic

BY ALISA TANG
The Associated Press

BANGKOK, Thailand — After almost a year of trying to bring Asia's bird flu under control, World Health Organization experts are now warning the disease is the most likely candidate to cause the world's next pandemic, with the possibility of as many as 7 million deaths.

"I believe we are closer now to a pandemic than at any time in recent years," Shigeru Omi, West-

ern Pacific regional director of WHO, said Friday.

"The current outbreak (of avian influenza) in poultry is historically unprecedented in terms of geographical spread and impact," he said. "This virus appears to be not only very resilient, but also extremely versatile."

WHO's global influenza expert, Kostas Stohr, said Thursday that the H5N1 bird flu virus — which has killed 32 people in Thailand and Vietnam and millions of chick-

ens across Asia this year — "is certainly the most likely one that will cause the next pandemic."

Influenza pandemics historically occur every 20 to 30 years when the genetic makeup of a flu strain changes so dramatically that people have little or no immunity built up from previous flu bouts.

Health officials fear bird flu could combine with a human flu virus, creating a new form that could spread rapidly.

Health ministers from 13 Asian

countries pledged at the meeting to intensify their cooperation in an attempt to ward off the possible pandemic and to prepare contingency plans to deal with it.

Omi told the meeting that the region must reduce bird flu threat to humans by changing farming practices. Hong Kong Health Secretary Yau Y.N. Chow said his government has set up very strict security in chicken farms to segregate humans and chickens, and minimize contact between wild birds and chickens.

IN THE STATES

Bush sticks close to home for Thanksgiving

President calls troops from his Texas ranch

BY SCOTT LINDLAU

The Associated Press

CRAWFORD, Texas — President Bush spent a down-to-earth Thanksgiving Day at his ranch eating leftovers and riding his mountain bike — a world away from Baghdad, his secret destination a year ago.

Bush also called members of the military stationed around the world, most of them deployed to the Middle East.

It was a dual celebration: His twin daughters, Jenna and Bar-

bara, marked their 23rd birthdays on the family's ranch. Also at the home were Laura Bush and her mother, Jenna Welch, and the president's parents, former President Bush and Barbara Bush.

The family worked on leftovers from Wednesday's luncheon meeting with Spain's King Carlos and Queen Sofia. That meal had a Thanksgiving theme, with free-range turkey and gravy, mashed sweet potatoes, bass caught at the ranch, stuffing, pan-roasted vegetables, pecan and pumpkin pies with ice cream. There was cake Thursday for the twin birthdays.

Bush also rode his bicycle on the trails at the 1,600-acre ranch,

and chopped cedar, White House spokeswoman Claire Buchanan said.

In the morning, the president called 10 members of the military representing all five branches of the service. "As the men and women of America's armed forces are sacrificing for the liberties we all enjoy, the president wanted to express his gratitude for their service and sacrifice, and to wish them a happy Thanksgiving," Buchanan said.

Last Thanksgiving, Bush slipped away from the ranch to visit troops in Baghdad, leaving his family and most of his usual entourage behind. Mindful of that history, many aides and journalists anxiously awaited word of another secret trip this year.



AP

President Bush phones U.S. troops from his ranch in Crawford, Texas.

New homeland security advertising campaign hits home

BY STEPHEN KIEHL
AND ABIGAIL TUCKER

The Baltimore Sun

A little girl with big brown eyes sits at the kitchen table eating cereal. Milk dribbling down her chin, she asks innocently, "So, Mom, what if something happened? Should I stay where I am and wait for you, or go to Grandma's house since it's closest? Is there a place we all meet? What should I do?"

The ad, soon to appear on television, is part of a U.S. Department of Homeland Security campaign to encourage families to develop plans in case of a terrorist attack.

The attention-grabbing campaign, unveiled this week, uses sweet young children and haunting music to strike an emotional chord — but perhaps an overly dark one, some fear.

"I'm concerned that it will lead to a boy-guy mentality," said Ned Gaylin, professor emeritus of family studies at the Uni-

versity of Maryland, College Park. "We talk to kids about not talking to strangers. We don't tell them they could rape you. We don't tell them they could put a gun in your mouth."

"You want to give kids the truth. You don't necessarily want to give them the whole truth."

Previous public service campaigns by the Homeland Security Department featured Secretary Tom Ridge talking about being prepared — hardly gripping television.

Hoping to draw more notice, the department enlisted BBDO Worldwide — known for such touching campaigns as GE's "We Bring Good Things to Life" — to create a new series of ads.

One is called "Family." It shows two young boys and a girl, apparently siblings, watching television in a dark room, the light from the TV flickering on their faces. "How do we keep in touch with each other if the phones don't work?" asks one boy. An announcer urges the viewer to go to www.ready.gov for more information.

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Crowds of shoppers wait in line before the 6:00 a.m. opening at a Wal-Mart in East Windsor, Conn., for markdowns to kick off the holiday shopping season, nicknamed "Black Friday." AP photos

On your mark, get set ... shop

Chaotic scenes across U.S. mark official beginning of holiday shopping

BY ANNE D'INNOCENZIO

The Associated Press

Retailers opened their doors before the sun rose Friday, the official start of the holiday shopping season, tempting early risers with specials on a variety of items including flat-screen TVs and toys.

Retailers are keeping their fingers crossed that, in an improving though still challenging economy, the crowds will keep coming throughout the next month.

By the time Wal-Mart's store in a Buffalo, N.Y. suburb of Hamburg opened its doors at 6 a.m., 1,000 people had formed a line that spanned the entire store front, despite temperatures of 31 degrees.

"It's our tradition," said Ruth Pompeo, of Lackawanna, N.Y., who was up at 3 a.m. and in line by 4:30 a.m. with her 11-year-old niece Shelby Strack. "I don't know what I'm here to grab, actually," she said. "Whatever I can."

Many of the early bird specials on hot items were in short supply, however. At another Wal-Mart store in Alpharetta, Ga., just north of Atlanta, a supply of discounted Video Now personal video players sold out in just 12 minutes.

That's why many shoppers mapped out a strategy to get the most coveted bargains.

"The deals are better this early in the morning," said Karen Dawkins, from Cayce, S.C., who was at a Toys R Us store in Columbia, S.C. and was almost done with her buying shortly after 6 a.m. "I have my mother at Circuit City and my sister at Target ... so we have people stationed at other stores."

She added, "We all got together after Thanksgiving dinner and got the ads and made a list."

Debbie Redmon of Thayer, Mo., set her alarm for 3:20 a.m. but woke up at 3 a.m., ready to take advantage of bargain shopping in Little Rock, Ark.

"I guess the adrenaline was flowing," she said.

She and daughter-in-law Kerri Littleton of Benton, Ark., hit the same places in Little Rock every year: BestBuy, then Kohl's, then Staples, then Sears Authority. They had their eyes on BestBuy's Sony PlayStation 2 for \$149.99 and an MP3 player marked down from \$129.99 to \$29.99.

"We'll finish up all our shopping today," Redmon said. "But we're usually at some place even after it gets dark. Then I collapse tomorrow."

Crystal Rhoades of Wake Forest, N.C., stood in front of Hudson Belk department



People line up to buy items at a Toys R Us store in Times Square, New York, on Friday.

store at Triangle Town Center in Raleigh, N.C. with Darlene Hackney of Creedmoor in temperatures hovering around 33 degrees.

Rhoades says it's her second or third time taking advantage of the early opening for the after-Thanksgiving sales. The day after Thanksgiving is known as "Black Friday" in the retailing business because the surge of shoppers has been known to push stores into profitability for the year.

"Since I had to go to work today, I figured I'd come in here before I go to work," she added. "So I've got until 7 o'clock to find a deal. After that, I'm out of here. I've got to be at work by 8 o'clock."

Rhoades had a short list until she spoke to Hackney.

"Sears has a DVD player for \$19.99, so that's what I came out here to get. But since she told me about the bracelet and the earrings, I'm going to get one of those, too," she said.

In Manchester, Conn., Claude Samson, lined up at 3 a.m. in front of Wal-Mart, three hours before the store opened. He filled two carts full of toys and cooking supplies.

"I think it's a little crazy and there's probably a simpler way of doing this, but at the same time, you are saving \$30 much," he said. "When you are saving \$30 or \$40 on a gift, you're going to do what you have to do."

Sheila Buckman, a 44-year-old student from Boston, woke at 3:45 a.m. and braved subfreezing temperatures to make her way to the CambridgeSide Galleria in Cambridge, Mass.

Buckman, who said she was on a tighter budget this year than in the past, said she was enticed by good deals at KB Toys store, which opened at 5 a.m. After buying some Yu-Gi-Oh trading cards for her children, Buckman raced over to Sears to pick up one of the \$10 gift cards being handed out to store's first 200 shoppers.

"I'm on a limited income so I can't go crazy," she Buckman, who used the gift card to purchase socks. "Hopefully, I'm going to get some bargains."

Things weren't going as well in the cold and rainy Bismarck, N.D., where only about 100 people were in line at Wal-Mart by 4:30 a.m., a half hour before opening, compared with several hundred last year.

"Last year, they broke down a door trying to get in," said Mary Lou Horning, a Wal-Mart employee who has been through a half-dozen Black Fridays. "It's wild. It's an amazing day."

"I think the weather has definitely [had] an impact, but they'll be here," Horning said.

Many of the Wal-Mart shoppers said they wanted to by a 24-inch flat-screen Symphonic television, on sale for \$139.92. Many of the nation's retailers are not

"We'll finish up all our shopping today. But we're usually at some place even after it gets dark. Then I collapse tomorrow."

Debbie Redmon

Shopping at Best Buy in Little Rock, Ark.

panicking — not just yet anyway, according to John Morris, an analyst at Harris Nesbitt.

"They're just trying to drive as much traffic earlier in the season, he said. In fact, discounting for the mall-based apparel retailers he follows is 5 percent below what it was a year ago.

Retailers' spirits have improved in recent weeks as falling fuel prices and job gains revived consumer spending momentum that slowed in the summer.

But many shoppers, particularly those with limited disposable income, are saying they will be cautious. Fuel prices remain high, and the job market still is volatile.

The Washington-based National Retail Federation projects that total sales, after restaurant and auto sales are excluded, will increase 4.5 percent for the November-December period. That would be less than the 5.1 percent gain of a year earlier.

Michael Niemira, chief economist at the International Council of Shopping Centers, predicts a "pretty good Christmas," estimating that sales at stores opened at least a year for the November-December period will be up anywhere from 3 percent to 4 percent. That compares to a 4 percent rise a year ago.

Retailers' efforts last year to get shoppers to buy early paid off.

During the 2003 holiday shopping season, the busiest day was the Friday after Thanksgiving, instead of the last Saturday before Christmas, which was the second busiest day, according to the International Council of Shopping Centers. That reversed a trend seen over the last ten years, when the busiest day was the Saturday before Christmas, according to Mike Niemira, chief economist at the industry group.

AP bureaus in Buffalo, N.Y., Bismarck, N.D., Raleigh, N.C., Atlanta, Ga., Little Rock, Ark., Boston, and Hartford, Conn., contributed to this report.

Rocks fall on I-70 in Colorado

The Associated Press

GLENWOOD SPRINGS, Colo. — Snowfall delayed repairs Friday to a section of Interstate 70 where a rock slide sent boulders as big as vans crashing onto the road.

Road crews, under the glare of portable spotlights, toiled through the night in hopes of reopening one lane of traffic in each direction. But the highway through scenic Glenwood Canyon in western Colorado remained closed Friday morning.

More than three dozen boulders landed on Interstate 70 early Thursday, some embedded 6 feet deep. State officials ended up closing a 24-mile section of the main east-west artery through Colorado. They rerouted Thanksgiving Day traffic that ordinarily flows between Glenwood Springs and Gypsum along an almost 220-mile detour to the north.

Geologists and engineers were working alongside the crews, trying to figure out what caused the slide.

"This is the worst I've seen in my eight years," said Stacey Stegman, spokeswoman for the state transportation department.

No one was injured in the slide, estimated at 100 feet long and 10



In this photo released by the state Department of Transportation, crews work on a section of Interstate 70 that is closed Thursday near Glenwood Springs, Colo., after a rock slide that left boulders embedded about six feet deep into part of the highway.

feet deep. An overturned truck had forced authorities to temporarily close the interstate earlier Thursday. They were preparing to reopen the road when rocks began rumbling down the canyon walls a mile away.

The slide left holes in the decks of two bridges, damaged guardrails and knocked out two wall panels along westbound lanes of the elevated mountain corridor.

Diann Allen of Redondo Beach, Calif., was just 30 miles from her destination when she learned she wouldn't be traveling any farther on I-70. She'd been headed to Mar-

ble to meet her boyfriend's three college-age sons for the first time. "Everything was going great until I got here," Allen said outside a Gypsum convenience store. "I guess I'll have leftover turkey. It tastes better anyway."

Highway worker David Kuhn had the unenviable job of informing motorists who had not heard about the slide that they were in for a long detour. He also had to accept — and help travelers do the same — the uncertainty of when the road might reopen.

"It could be 10 hours," Kuhn said Thursday. "It could be two days."

Turnpike strike puts truckers in tight spot

The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — The first strike in the Pennsylvania Turnpike's 64-year history is forcing some truckers to make a tough decision: Should they make a few bucks by pocketing the tolls they would normally pay, or buy extra gas to bypass a 531-mile picket line in a show of solidarity with fellow union members? Trucks weighing between 40 and 50 tons, the most common on the turnpike, normally would pay \$140 to travel from the east side of the state to the west, while heavier trucks are typically charged \$794 to travel end-to-end.

Truckers and other drivers on the turnpike got free rides on Wednesday after about 2,000 toll collectors, maintenance workers and office employees walked off the job.

Managers began manning toll booths just after midnight on Thursday and were only charging \$2 per car and \$15 per commercial vehicle. Normally, the toll varies by distance, but the flat rate was charged to make things simpler and prevent backups at the toll plazas.

E-ZPass users could pay the reg-

ular toll or the flat fee, whichever was cheaper.

Mark Watkins, a terminal manager for Hess Trucking Co. in Harrisburg, was trying to route his truckers around the turnpike because their contract bars them from passing through the Teamsters union picket lines. "It stinks. It's going to be a pain in the butt," Watkins told the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette in a story published Thursday.

Normally, the trucking company has as many as 15 trucks ferrying candy on the turnpike, but Watkins was sending drivers through traffic on side roads, up steep hills and on little known routes that will cost the company time and money.

As many as 1,000 truck drivers in Allegheny County also have contracts that bar them from passing through the Teamsters union picket lines, said Joe Rossi, vice president of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 249.

Eric Baughman, Pittsburgh terminal manager for Bulkmark Transport, said the strike will likely be a boon to owner-operators who can pocket the money they'd normally pay in tolls rather than giving it back to their companies.

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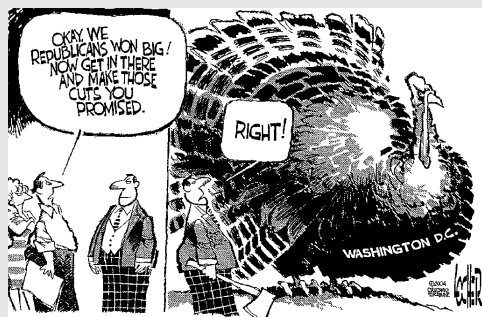
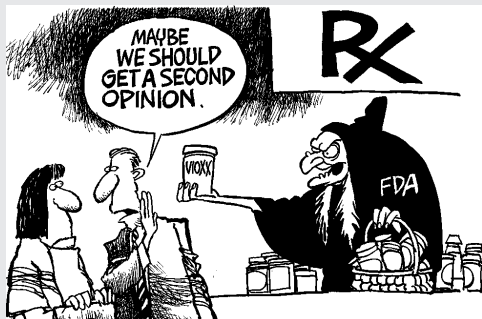
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Looking at the news

A weekly sampling of U.S. editorial cartoons



Fit vs. fat: Scientists weigh in on debate

By ROB STEIN
The Washington Post

At 5 feet 4 and 190 pounds, Jude Mathews would seem to personify the health crisis facing a nation in the throes of an obesity epidemic. But the librarian from Evanston, Ill., begs to differ.

"My blood pressure is rock solid. My cholesterol numbers are basically fine. My doctor doesn't see anything."

They say I need to worry about," said Mathews, who is 55, exercises regularly and eats a well-balanced diet. "One little number on the scale is not all there is to your health."

As medical authorities have become increasingly alarmed by the rapidly rising number of Americans who are overweight and obese, people such as Mathews find themselves at the center of an intense debate: Can people be overweight but still healthy? In books, medical journals and at public health conferences, scientists have been dueling over the relative importance of fatness vs. fitness, and whether there is common ground between the camps. A small but vocal cadre of researchers has been challenging conventional wisdom, arguing that not only is it possible to be both fat and fit, but that fitness is

Some experts say focus should be on patients' health, not waistlines

more important for health.

"All too often, medical professionals say it's the obesity we have to cure. That's the be-all and end-all. It's not," said Steven N. Blair, who heads the Cooper Institute, a Dallas research foundation focused on physical activity.

"The impression is that everyone who is overweight faces an elevated risk for mortality. That's simply not true." Other experts maintain that while there may be exceptions, the evidence is clear for most people: Being overweight significantly increases the risk of a host of debilitating and often deadly health problems, including heart attacks, strokes, cancer and diabetes.

Steven N. Blair
Cooper Institute

"Being overweight has a clear association with important health problems, and even modest weight loss has important health benefits," said Walter Willett, an expert on nutrition and health at the Harvard School of Public Health. "To tell people it doesn't matter is really misleading. It does make a difference. It makes a huge difference." Playing down risks of excess weight is dangerous, Willett and others say, particularly with two-thirds of Americans already

overweight, including one-third who are officially obese.

"I would not want to switch the emphasis away from trying to control weight," said Lawrence J. Cheskin, director of the Johns Hopkins Weight Management Center. "That's a clear risk factor."

Blair and other fitness proponents acknowledge some overweight people are at increased risk for health problems, and many people may benefit from losing weight. But they argue society focuses far too much on dropping pounds and far too little on exercise, eating well and being physically fit.

"I don't believe height and weight is a good indication of health," said Joanne Ikeda, co-director of the Center for Weight and Health at the University of California at Berkeley. "If a fat person or obese person has normal blood pressure, if their total cholesterol and glucose levels are normal, and they are healthy, there is no reason they should necessarily have to lose weight."

Many people are simply born to be bigger, which does not necessarily mean they are destined to have health problems, especially if they exercise regularly and eat well, she said.

"There is a subset of people who are meant to be large people," Ikeda said. "If they are in fact obese but they are metabolically healthy, their bodies are constructed in a way that carrying a large amount of weight is not deleterious."

The increased health risks blamed on being overweight are really the result of many overweight people being out of shape, having poor diets and other unhealthful habits, Blair and others say. If those factors are considered, studies have found that any increased risk virtually disappears, they say.

"We've studied this from many perspectives in women and in men and we get the same answer. It's not the obesity — it's the fitness," Blair said. "Fitness can substantially reduce, if not eliminate, the high risk of being obese."

Ikeda tests people to see if they are "metabolically healthy." If she spots warning signs, she recommends exercise and a nutritious diet, but with the goal of making people fitter, not necessarily thinner.

"What weight-loss programs promote are diets that are so low in calories that people are constantly fatigued, and then they have a hard time getting out there to exercise, which is really what will help them," Ikeda said. "How stupid is that?"

The focus on weight loss is especially misguided because most people simply are unable to lose substantial weight and keep it off, Ikeda, Blair and others say.

"I'm a short fat guy myself," Blair said. "I'd like to be thinner. I'm not saying people shouldn't try to lose weight. But we're not getting anywhere with ... shouting from the rooftops how bad obesity is. So if the strategy is not working, it seems to me we ought to be thinking about different strategies."

Hospitals hoping advice doesn't get lost in translation

By JOANN LOVIGLIO
The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Romaldo Rivera arrives at the emergency room with what seems to be a complaint of chest pain. But it's hard to be sure — he doesn't speak English.

He's a pale but solidly built man with thinning, gray hair, and his face reddens as his shirt is removed, his pant legs are pushed up and electrodes are attached to his calves and chest.

As nurses and technicians come and go from the small, curtained examination area, his eyes dart from one person to the next, hoping for a familiar phrase, even a word.

Unlike TV portrayals of frenzied big-city emergency rooms, the scene slows in real-life hospitals when a doctor and patient can't communicate. It becomes like a game of charades, as one doctor put it, with lots of pointing and gesturing.

Across the United States, the approach to care for non-English-speaking patients is hit-or-miss. Fewer than a fourth of U.S. hospitals have professionally trained interpreters, a study found. In some places, hospital employees with no medical training are called in to interpret. In others, relatives, neighbors or acquaintances do the job.

In the worst cases, the patient's problem gets lost in translation.

Hospital officials realize they need interpreters, but most haven't figured out how to pay for them. The Temple University Health System took action when two hospitals had a surge of Spanish-speaking patients.

Now, Temple and nine other medical institutions nationwide are taking part in a program that could show why hospitals can't afford to be without formally trained medical interpreters.

From 1990 to 2000, Philadelphia's Hispanic population rose from roughly 89,000 to 129,000, or more than 44 percent. Many settled in neighborhoods around the two Temple hospitals in north Philadelphia.

In a relatively short time, patients from Puerto Rico, Mexico, Dominican Republic, Central America and South America were accounting for 20 percent of all admissions, said Charles Sotloff, a Temple executive.

"Because so many of them spoke little or no English, we weren't able to serve their needs as well as we wanted to," he said.

So this past spring, Temple hired four interpreters with an \$850,000 grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and began sending them to medical classes.



Medical interpreter Carmen Diaz, right, interprets for Spanish-speaking patient Romaldo Rivera at Temple University Hospital in Philadelphia in September. Temple University is among 10 sites in the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's *Hablaamos Juntos* program that received grants to hire and train Spanish interpreters.

Temple and the other hospitals getting grants must develop a comprehensive medical interpreting program. They've also been asked to document how trained medical interpreters affect patient care and hospital costs.

Health care advocates are convinced that having no interpreters means longer stays, unnecessary tests, more repeat visits and even medical mistakes.

Hospitals have long relied on friends or relatives of patients to help translate, but it's an arrangement that comes with risks.

Patients sometimes hide details from children or friends filling in as translators. And sometimes family members want to shield patients from unwelcome news from their doctors, said Marbella Sala, who manages medical interpreting services at University of California-Davis.

"We had a case where a patient was being treated for a venereal disease and asked the doctor how she could have contracted it. The doctor explained it, but her husband, who was interpreting, told

her that she got it from a public toilet," Sala said.

The doctor suspected something was amiss and an interpreter later cleared things up.

UC Davis has one of the nation's largest and oldest medical interpreter programs. Established in 1987 with a staff of seven, it now employs 42 people who speak 19 languages — from Spanish and Russian to Hmong and American Sign Language.

"It has made us the place of choice for many patients," Sala said.

Chicago hopes eBay bidders catch wind of auction



Joan Greene, the project director for a city of Chicago eBay auction, displays a vintage Playboy Bunny costume Friday, which one of many items specific to the Windy City that will be sold during an online auction running Dec. 2 to Dec. 16.

Event held to raise money for cultural programs in Windy City

By TARA BURGARTH
The Associated Press

CHICAGO — City officials hope there are people willing to pay plenty of money to own a vintage Playboy Bunny costume, toss green dye into the Chicago River or throw a dinner party prepared by Oprah Winfrey's chef.

The Chicago-related items and experiences — Playboy Enterprises and Winfrey's show are both based in the city, and turning the Chicago River green for St. Patrick's Day is a hallowed city tradition — will be up for sale Dec. 2-16 on eBay.

It's all part of an effort to raise money for arts and cultural programs as the city faces a \$220 million budget gap.

Other cities and states have used eBay to sell surplus office furniture, and school districts have auctioned off entire buildings. Charities regularly use the auction site to sell only in-your-dreams experiences such as a lunch date with stock market sage Warren Buffett, which went for \$250,100 last year.

But the Chicago sale is unique because the money is being directed back to specific city programs and the city is both contributing items and encouraging residents to donate, Durzy said.

“We’re raising funds, but also we’re helping people all over the world get a sense of what Chicago is about. I love that aspect of it.”

Consultant Joan Greene
auction's project director

Many of the items up for auction are specific to Chicago, including a walk-on role at the city's Goodman Theatre, a chance to turn on the landmark Buckingham Fountain for the season, a behind-the-scenes tour of Lincoln Park Zoo and a decommissioned city parking meter.

The Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs, which is sponsoring the auction, has seen its budget from federal, state and city sources decline from \$11.8 million in 2002 to a projected \$8.8 million next year, said department spokeswoman Anne Dattulo.

Proceeds will help groups including the Chicago Cultural Center Foundation, which presents free arts programs, and

Cultural Grants, which awards funds to hundreds of Chicago artists and arts organizations each year.

City officials have not estimated how much they expect to raise from the auction. A conservative guess is \$250,000 just for the items for which there are actually estimated retail prices, such as a stay in a hotel's presidential suite, Dattulo said.

But how much a winning bidder will pay for a one-of-a-kind opportunity like turning on Buckingham Fountain, the centerpiece of lakefront Grant Park, is unknown.

Consultant Joan Greene, the auction's project director, said she first saw it as a way to sell items donated by businesses, but soon realized there was also a way to create unique, Chicago-specific experiences.

A city worker in the mayor's office suggested the Chicago River project; Greene said the Chicago Plumbers Local Union 130, whose members dye the river each year, was excited to help out.

“What we have done is to create a picture album of what is available in the city. It's become almost like a travel experience,” Greene said. “We’re raising funds, but also we’re helping people all over the world get a sense of what Chicago is about. I love that aspect of it.”

Urban legend or reality?

Fla. woman says she saw skunk ape

By LINDA FLOREA
The Orlando Sentinel

LAKELAND, Fla. — Urban legends are supposed to be legends and that's all. But if you ask Jennifer Ward about the Florida skunk ape, she will tell you it stepped out of the mists of myth and into reality.

“I never thought anything like that was out there before,” Ward, 30, said last week. “But I know there is now.”

Ward's encounter with the hairy creature came in August, about a week after Hurricane Charley, along a rural stretch of road as she was driving home from a friend's house. Her daughters were asleep in the back seat and it was approaching dusk.

“I noticed something in the ditch. I looked over, and I guess it noticed me. It rose up,” she said explaining that the animal had been crouching when she first saw it.

“Its eyes went from serious, maybe it was getting frogs — it was focused on something,” she continued. “When he saw me, he was as surprised as I was. I slowed down to almost a stop. I didn't stop because I was scared. It was almost dark, but I could see it and get a good look.”

Ward said the creature was 6 to 8 feet tall and covered with hair about 2 inches long. There was white around the eyes, but she did not notice a nose or ears. She said the lips were full with the texture of a dog's paw pad. Its hands were drawn up next to its body.

At first, Ward only told friends and family about what she saw. She acknowledged that it took considerable time for her to decide to go public.

Florida skunk ape sightings have been reported for more than 200 years, according to Scott Marlowe, co-founder of Pangea Institute in Winter Haven and instructor of an upcoming college course on cryptozoology, the study of hidden animals and the possibility of their existence.



Jennifer Ward says she saw a Florida skunk ape in rural Polk County, Fla., in August.

He said there have been about 75 reported sightings of the skunk ape in Florida in the past 20 years. This Southern relative of Bigfoot gets its name for the awful stench often associated with it. Ward said she could not remember an odor, but that she may have been the first caught her attention. Joy Hill, a spokeswoman for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, would not comment about whether she thinks the sighting was genuine but said her agency has received no reports of such creatures.

Marlowe is searching the area of Ward's sighting outside Lakeland for footprints and hair that may have been snagged on a branch. He said the increasing development in Florida means man and beast will cross paths more often.

“With so much encroachment, it's almost inevitable that the thing exists, we're going to find it,” Marlowe said.

The skunk ape makes its winter home in the Everglades, Marlowe said, but may move about seasonally.

Lois Coleman, author of the 2003 book, “Bigfoot! The True Story of Apes in America,” is considered the leading cryptozoologist in the world and has been tracking Bigfoot-type sightings for 45 years. He said weather events, such as hurricanes, often result in sightings.

“Hurricanes and tornadoes stir up wildlife. They travel to get settled,” Coleman said in a telephone interview.

Study: Cicada carcasses boost nutrients in soil

By EILEEN PUTMAN
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Even in death, the 17-year cicadas made their mark.

Their decaying carcasses gave a supersize boost in nutrients to forest soil and stimulated seed and nitrogen production in a plant important to the forest ecosystem, researchers reported in Friday's edition of the journal Science.

The findings might explain why tree growth increases for several years after a major cicada emergence, experts said.

Bard College professor Felicia Keesing likened it to someone pouring a mound of fertilizer per square yard over the forest floor. The co-authors wrote an accompanying research paper on the impact of cicada carcasses on soil and plants.

Louie H. Yang, a graduate student at the University of California, Davis, conducted the studies in 2002, 2003 and 2004 in cicada-infested areas in the eastern United States.

This summer's infestation was the largest, with 17-year cicadas known as Brood X inundating the mid-Atlantic region and filling forests from Georgia north to Pennsylvania and west through the Ohio River Valley to the Mississippi.

The beady-eyed insects spawned a public fascination — along with a multitude of cicada recipes and worries about the insects' impact on trees, plants, pets and even driving visibility.

While most worries weren't borne out, scientists have long been concerned about the impact of such outbreaks in which there is a sudden hyperabundance of or-

Soil booster

WHEN CICADAS DIE: Decaying cicada carcasses provide a massive boost in nutrients to forest soil and stimulate seed and nitrogen production in a plant important to the forest ecosystem, researchers reported.

BUG INSPECTORS: The scientists conducted their studies in 2002, 2003 and 2004 in the eastern United States, including last summer's noisy invasion by the 17-year cicadas known as Brood X.

SIDE EFFECTS: The findings might explain why tree growth increases for several years after a major cicada emergence.

— The Associated Press

ganisms with potentially vast consequences for ecosystems.

Andrew Sugden, Science's international managing editor, said in an interview from Cambridge, England, that Yang's research was significant because “it quantifies for the first time what is likely to happen when you get large outbreaks of insects all at once.”

In his field studies, Yang experimented with naturally occurring densities of cicada carcasses of as much as 300 per square yard. For each density he measured the soil's nitrogen and bacterial and fungal growth over varying periods of time after carcasses were applied.

Soil content of a form of nitrogen used by plants was many times higher — 199 percent to 412 percent — in ground littered with cicada carcasses. Bacterial and fungal growth also increased.

No more paddling

TN MEMPHIS — Beginning next fall, paddling will no longer be allowed in Memphis public schools.

In a tense meeting Monday night, the school board voted 5-4 to abolish corporal punishment, replacing it with a package of alternative disciplinary measures.

"It's just gratifying to know that we have come to a place where we're going to respect our children and treat them with decency," said a grinning Lora Jobe, the board member who waged a seven-year fight to end corporal punishment.

The decision prompted mixed reactions from parents and teachers who packed the auditorium. One parent, Tonya Harris, predicted dire consequences. "The kids are waiting up on this news, and there's going to be fights, starting (today)," she said.

Disgruntled patient

CA VENTURA — A woman upset about problems with her medical appointments flung an ax inside the reception area of a doctor's office, injuring a patient and smashing a window, police said.

Sybil Busch, 54, was booked into jail on suspicion of assault with a deadly weapon and felony vandalism.

Police were called to Urgent Care in Ventura after the woman entered the building armed with a foot-long ax and complained about appointment problems, police Lt. David Wilson said. She shattered a large window with the ax after yelling at the receptionist and trying to climb over the counter, he said.

Michael Fiddes, 62, of Ventura, pulled the woman down from the counter and was cut on the hand by the ax, Wilson said.

Expensive wine bottle

NY NEW YORK — Raise a glass — 1,200 of them to be exact — to New Jersey, new home to the world's largest bottle of wine.

A Tenafly, N.J., business paid \$55,812 for a 4 1/2-foot tall bottle of cabernet sold Saturday at Sotheby's, said auction house spokeswoman Kristin Geller. Wine Ventures, a wine and chocolate shop, plans to put the bottle on display at its Bergen County business.

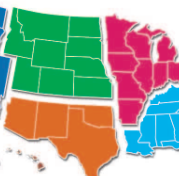
The 340-pound bottle was the work of master glass blowers in the Czech Republic, and holds the equivalent of 173 standard bottles of Beringer Vineyards 2001 Private Reserve Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon. That translates to 1,200 glasses of wine.

The bottle, dubbed Maximus, was certified as the world's largest by the Guinness World Records. The Morton's steakhouse chain, to celebrate its 25th anniversary, partnered with Beringer to create the record-setting bottle.

Doll rescued

IN KIRKLIN — Rescuers responding to a report of an infant left alone in a vehicle arrived to find that she wasn't breathing.

No big deal, since the rescuer turned out to be nothing more than



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

a doll in a car seat.

A woman had named the Clinton County Sheriff's Department shortly before 4 p.m. Sunday and said a baby had been left in a locked car in Kirklin, a town of 800 about 40 miles north of Indianapolis. The woman told the dispatcher she thought the child might not be breathing.

Sheriff's deputies, firefighters and emergency medical technicians raced to the scene and used a special device to unlock the car's door, said Sheriff's Department Lt. Joe Mink.

When officers opened the car door they discovered the supposed infant was a doll, Mink said. No further action was taken.

\$7 million fraud scheme

TX HOUSTON — A lawsuit is accusing a bank and 24 other businesses and individuals of helping a Clear Lake man in a \$7 million fraud scheme.

Larry Michael Nixon, 55, has been accused of faking his own death and big spending disappeared after his speedboat, "Living Extra Fast," smashed into a barge in August 2003 in the Houston Ship Channel. He was found alive in January in a house in the North Texas town of Weatherford.

The lawsuit was filed Friday by Old National Bank of Evansville, Ind., and M. Gene Marlin of Greenwood, Ind., a former partner of



Holiday cheer

With a truck of more than 700 Christmas trees in the background, Riley Hoffman, 12 from Boy Scout Troop 199, helped unload the trees for the scout's annual Christmas tree sale at St. Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church in Mission, Kan.

Nixon.

It accuses Moody National Bank and Michael Hazelwood, vice president and loan officer at its Clear Lake branch, of conspiring with Nixon to obtain loans to buy nonexistent canoes.

Nurse charged

RI PROVIDENCE — The attorney general's office filed felony criminal-negligence charges against a nurse, saying she ignored the pleas of an 85-year-old resident of a nursing home who died after complaining of chest pains and asking for her nitroglycerin.

The patient, Eva Thomas, said she thought she was having a heart attack, according to court records. But an investigation found that the nurse, Deborah M. Colby, 33, told co-workers that Thomas was faking.

Reached at home, Colby said she didn't know about the criminal complaint filed against her. She said she was trying, unsuccessfully, to reach her lawyer.

"I'm shaking like a leaf," she said.

Seal pup captured

CA OAKLAND — The Oakland Fire Department captured a wayward elephant seal pup hanging out in a drainage culvert two miles from San Francisco Bay and turned it over to wildlife experts.

Called "Emmy," after one of the rescuing officers at the scene, the healthy 11-month-old seal surfaced about midday Tuesday to the amazement of passersby.

Cars double-parked for about a block and a half, clogging traffic, while a crowd gathered to see the 181-pound gray marine mammal, which was going the wrong way in one of the covered creeks that runs through Oakland.

Mark Hoffmann, the fire chief who coordinated the capture, said it looked as though the seal was in danger from trash and humans.

Within an hour, the Fire Department's heavy-rescue unit secured the seal in a sling and pulled it out with a crane. It was to be released into the bay.

Officers asked for DNA

KS WICHITA — Investigators seeking Wichita's most notorious serial killer are asking former Wichita police officers to provide DNA samples. Lt. Ken Landwehr said the samples will exonerate officers who worked during the time of the so-called BTM murders. The initials stand for "Bind, Torture, Kill," the self-coined nickname of a serial killer connected with eight unsolved homicides between 1974 and 1986.

Rare trees protected

HI HILO — The state is setting aside 1,200 acres on the Big Island to grow rare koa trees suitable for building traditional Polynesian voyaging canoes. The Polynesian Voyaging Society estimated the first trees may be ready to harvest for canoe construction in 20 years. Koa logs large enough to fashion into canoes are about 35 to 45 feet long.



Risky job Russell Tucker, 47, starts to shimmy up the 70-foot-high flag pole in front of a McDonald's restaurant in Las Cruces, N.M., with nothing but a set of ropes.



Creative sand art

Carl Jara, a sand sculptor, works on part of the "SANDstruction" exhibit at The Children's Museum of Cleveland in University Circle, Cleveland.



Extreme fun Chuck Speck catches some air on a homemade jump at the edge of the Hart Prairie ski run at the Arizona Snowbowl, near Flagstaff, Ariz.



Pooch auditions Robbie Hiltz of Andover, Minn., hugs Jake, 18 months, at a casting call for St. Bernard dogs to play the role of Santabar's dog in the Holiday parade.



Safety practice Johanna Walkiet, 9, from Providence, R.I., skates around safety cones during a visit to the Fleet Skating Center in downtown Providence.



Peaceful serenity A rainbow stretches along Jones Valley during a short break in the rainshowers in Huntsville, Ala.

Granny saves the day

WA LYNNWOOD — When this granny saw a handcuffed man trying to flee from a department store, she didn't just step out of the way of the charging scowling.

"I get pushed and shoved a little sometimes at the mall, but nothing like this," said 60-year-old Janice Lewis.

Lewis, who has 10 grandchildren, grabbed the man's jacket and held on until he was tackled by Officer Anne Codiga. She broke a finger and bruised her hand in the scuffle.

The chase began across the street from Alderwood Mall on Monday when workers at Verity Credit Union reported a man was trying to use an account that wasn't his. Police had arrested and handcuffed the man, and were leading him outside when he bolted.

As he ran, with two officers in pursuit, his jeans slid to his ankles and he tripped over them, falling in the middle of the road.

He flipped off his shoes, wriggled out of his pants, got to his feet and ran.

Wearing boxer shorts, one sock, a jacket and a shirt, he ran into the mall parking garage. Codiga followed.

Lewis had seen the man running from police near the credit union, but thought officers had caught him. So she was shocked to see him suddenly running toward her from the parking garage.

The man was booked for theft and assault.

Judges being evaluated

MA BOSTON — Judicial officials are completing their first comprehensive evaluation of the state's 360 judges. The evaluations are part of a drive to improve management and efficiency in the state court system, which a panel of business and academic leaders described as "mired in confusion" two years ago. The results of the surveys won't be made public. Officials say only a small percentage of judges received poor marks.

Dog is mom to kittens

MI EDWARDSBURG — A Shih Tzu who, her owners say, longed for years to give birth is finally getting a chance to nurse some little ones, even if they're the wrong species.

Owners Jean and Bill Schirf said the dog, named Geisha Girl, used to take a toy dog, wrap herself around it in her basket and mother it for a week or two.

Now she's doing the same thing with two stray kittens that Jean Schirf found two weeks ago in the woods behind her Cass County home.

"She wraps herself around them all night long," Schirf said.

Not only did Geisha Girl start watching over and cleaning the kittens, which have been named Dilly and Dally, she started lactating within about a week — enough to provide them with some of the milk they need. Schirf helps out by bottle-feeding the cats 2 percent milk.

New bridge on I-10

FL PIENSACOLA — A new Interstate 10 bridge connecting Escambia and Santa Rosa counties will replace the one damaged by Hurricane Ivan. The money will come from a provision in the

\$388 billion spending bill approved by Congress over the weekend. State engineers have estimated that building the new bridge will cost \$325 million.

Pierce not forgotten

NH CONCORD — Tuesday is the 200th birthday of the only U.S. president from New Hampshire, and the state's historical society is throwing a party, complete with cake. Franklin Pierce was the 14th president from 1853 to 1857, as the nation headed toward the Civil War. An exhibit will explore Pierce's life through more than 100 objects, paintings, photographs and documents.

Legislator wants recount

TX AUSTIN — Rep. Talmadge Hefflin, a Republican who lost his Houston race by 32 votes, requested a formal recount with the Texas Secretary of State's office. Democrat Hubert Vo, a Houston businessman and former Vietnamese refugee, successfully challenged the longtime legislator. Hefflin is regarded as one of the most powerful members of the Texas House.

Recount confirms win

MN ST. PAUL — The state canvassing board confirmed the victory of Judy Soderstrom, a Republican incumbent in a close House race that was key to determining control of the chamber. Soderstrom won a second term by 76 votes over Democratic challenger Tim Faust, according to an automatic recount. Her win preserves the Republicans' 68-66 majority in the House.

Schools to pool resources

CO DENVER — Three Colorado universities signed an agreement to form a joint school of public health that could start in 2007.

Colorado State University, the University of Colorado and the University of Northern Colorado plan to pool resources and expertise to offer bachelor's, master's and doctorate degrees. It would be the first school of public health in the Mountain West.

Predictions on volcano

WA VANCOUVER — If lava continues to pile up inside the crater of Mount St. Helens at the current rate, the volcano could rebuild its summit in about 10 years. It's more likely the volcano will erupt sporadically during the next 20 to 50 years and gradually regain its former height, said Willie Scott, a volcanologist with the U.S. Geological Survey's Cascades Volcano Observatory. The 1980 eruption blasted off 1,313 feet, leaving the mountain at 8,364 feet.

Governor very popular

CT HARTFORD — Gov. M. Jodi Rell's popularity is at a new high with Connecticut voters, according to the latest Quinnipiac University poll. The poll gives Rell an 80 percent approval rating, nearly the highest of any governor ever surveyed by the university. The telephone poll of 1,774 registered voters was conducted between Nov. 15-21.

Stories and photos from wire services

FACES

Willis sues film studio for injuries

Bruce Willis filed a negligence lawsuit against Revolution Studios for pyrotechnic injuries allegedly suffered during filming of the action film "Tears of the Sun."

The Superior Court lawsuit claims the actor suffered substantial mental and physical injuries during the October 2002 movie set accident in Los Angeles where he was struck in the forehead by a "projectile" from the movie's special effects personnel detonated pyrotechnic devices.



Willis

The explosions, known as squibs, were intended to "simulate the appearance of bullets striking the ground," according to the lawsuit claiming Willis has endured "extreme mental, physical and emotional pain and suffering."

There were no details on the injuries.

Revolution Studios spokesman Sean Dudas said, "We are not able to comment on pending litigation."

The complaint doesn't seek specific monetary damages, but it noted Willis "was required to and did employ physicians and other medical personnel" and will incur future medical expenses.

The lawsuit said defendants Revolution Studios and special effects foreman Joe Pancake "had a duty to Willis to ensure that the squibs were inspected, set up, placed and detonated in a safe manner, and to employ technicians who were trained and competent in their use."

Willis' screen credits also include the "Die Hard" films, "The Sixth Sense" and "The Whole Nine Yards."

Manson hits the classroom

Marilyn Manson: shock rocker. Self-proclaimed "Antichrist Superstar." Philosophy professor? With an MTV film crew in tow, Manson surprised students in a Temple University Art and Society class Monday with an hourlong guest lecture.

He opened the class with a question: Could he share a bottle of red absinthe with the students? The liqueur stayed on the desk as Manson — wearing an all-black suit with chrome-tipped platform shoes, dark lipstick and sunglasses — responded to questions about art, politics and religion.



Manson

"I'm not someone who doesn't respect religion, but I don't care for the way religion is used to manipulate people," the 35-year-old singer said. "We create our own gods. We create our own devils."

MTV's college network, mTV, filmed Manson's classroom appearance for a segment of the "Stand In" series scheduled to air Dec. 6.

Fishburne, Hawke star in remake

A grim, crime-ridden city co-stars with Laurence Fishburne and Ethan Hawke in a thriller movie set for release in January.

"Assault on Precinct 13" is a remake of the 1976 cult classic directed by John Carpenter, which was set in Los Angeles. The 2005 version, set in Detroit, is directed by Jean-François Richet ("All About Love"), and also features Drea de Matteo, Maria Bello, Gabriel Byrne and Brian Dennehy.

The movie tells the story of a stormy New Year's Eve at a police precinct that is set to be shut down in a few days. Crime lord Marion Bishop, played by Fishburne, sits in Precinct 13 for the night. When a gang attempts to break in to free him, the prisoners and a skeletal crew of police officers realize they must band together if they want to make it out alive.

"Assault on Precinct 13" was shot almost entirely in Toronto.

A skyline shot is the only glimpse of the real Motor City, the Detroit

Free Press said Tuesday.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press



KRT

Front to back: Mark McClelland, Gary Lightbody, Nathan Connolly, Tom Simpson and Johnny Quinn of Snow Patrol sit in an aisle at Tower Records in West Hollywood, Calif., on Oct. 4. Lightbody's relationships often have been the band's muse.

Snow Patrol: Turning heartache into hits

BY RANDY LEWIS
Los Angeles Times

YOU can call Snow Patrol a lot of things — this year's Coldplay, the hottest rock act out of Belfast, Northern Ireland since Van Morrison four decades ago — but "anti-women" isn't one of them.

"The woman never comes out worse in my songs," says the quartet's lead singer and songwriter, Gary Lightbody. Any problem in a relationship, he confesses apologetically, "is always my fault."

But as Lightbody and his bandmates have discovered lately, a problem in one aspect of life can be good in another — in this case, Lightbody's misfortunes in love have helped Snow Patrol's fortunes in music.

The group's songs, he explains, "are not about one girl, but generally just about me being terrible in relationships," he says. "Nobody will ever accuse us of being misogynist."

Snow Patrol's third album, "Final Straw," which chronicles relationships in various states of despair, has sold about 800,000 copies in the United Kingdom, according to the band's manager. It also has cracked the 100,000 sales mark in the United States since its release here in March — a feat that's proven rare for U.K. bands no matter how popular they are at home.

But Lightbody's laconic, yet sincere, Irish tenor and heart-on-sleeve lyrical emotionalism, combined with wistful harmonies and a touch of U2-ish pop grandeur and rock drive, has helped Snow Patrol become an exception to the rule.

With its anthem-like single "Run," ever-present on alt-rock and pop radio stations over much of the summer, the Glasgow, Scotland-based group is receiving "arrival of the year" treatment from U.S. audiences. Few fans are aware of the group's two previous albums as Snow Patrol — "Songs for Polar Bears" in 1998 and 2001's "When It's All

Over We Still Have to Clear Up."

"We see ('Final Straw') as a continuation of what we did on the first two albums, but most people probably think it's our first record," says Lightbody, as he's flanked at a West Hollywood restaurant by bassist Mark McClelland, guitarist Nathan Connolly, drummer Johnny Quinn and touring keyboardist Tom Simpson.

"The fact that it works well on its own means that it does stand alone as a work," he says.

Lightbody and McClelland hail from Belfast, but they met while in school north of Glasgow at the University of Dundee. They started Snow Patrol with Quinn in 1994 as a hobby, while Lightbody pursued studies in English and philosophy — "two useless subjects," he quips — and McClelland focused on economics.

They also were passionate about music and took their band to the burgeoning music scene in Glasgow, which also has yielded acts like Franz Ferdinand and Keane.

Lightbody, like his bandmates, admires Coldplay and thinks "it's great being compared" to such a successful and respected group. "But 'Run' is the only song on the album that bears any relation to Coldplay. We tend to play dirtier rock music."

Lightbody's been earning plaudits for a forward leap in his songwriting on "Final Straw" in songs that frequently come across as captivating emotional mosaics. Producer Garrett Lee, who had previously worked with such dance acts as Basement Jaxx and TLC, also helped push Snow Patrol in new musical and sonic directions this time around.

"We took everything we discovered on those first two records and more and commingled that with the knowledge and efforts of Garrett Lee to create obviously a far superior record the third time around," Lightbody says.

"Hopefully we'll do that again next time," he says. "You have to keep making better and better records, or you have to ask yourself why are you doing it."

YOUR MONEY

International stocks back on radar

By THODD MASON

The Philadelphia Inquirer

International stocks are outperforming U.S. stocks after a long, disappointing stretch, so long some experts and investors began questioning the value of owning foreign stocks.

"The sun has been shining on foreign equities for a while now even though they haven't really risen," said Hans van den Berg, manager of the 1838 International Equity mutual fund in King of Prussia, Pa.

Van den Berg's mutual fund — whose largest stakes are in Japanese, British and German stocks — has beaten the Standard & Poor's 500 index handsily since 2002, earning an average annual return of 7.1 percent through October versus 1.2 percent for the S&P, according to Morningstar Inc.

The Morgan Stanley Europe Australasia and Far East index — a broad measure of international stocks — was up 10.7 percent this year through Nov. 12, while the Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 6.5 percent in the same period. The Morgan Stanley index tracks stocks in 21 developed countries outside of North America.

Even so, investors have been slow to pick up on improving fortunes abroad. Of \$26 billion flowing into mutual funds for the first four years, \$36 billion or 17.3 percent, went to funds investing in foreign stocks, according to Lipper Inc.

Investors are missing a chance

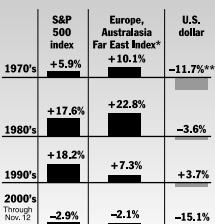
Comparing returns

Total returns of major stock indexes and the U.S. dollar's value against other major currencies as measured by the Federal Reserve's major currencies index:

*Morgan Stanley Capital International index measures stock market performance plus reinvested dividends in 19 countries in Europe and the Far East, plus Australia and New Zealand.

*Data series began in Jan. 1973

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Source: Lipper U.S. Federal Reserve Board Graphic: The Philadelphia Inquirer

to reduce risk in their portfolios, said Ted Smith, a senior vice president in the wealth management group at Delaware Investments, an arm of Lincoln National Corp., in Philadelphia.

"Investors should diversify precisely because they don't know whether U.S. or foreign stocks will outperform," he said.

There was no question about which group did better in the late, great bull market of the late 1990s. The average annual total return of the S&P 500 towered over that of Morgan Stanley index.

What is more, foreign stocks fell harder than domestic stocks in the initial months of the bear market in 2000.

Bad news comes with borders. A 2002 study by Michigan State University professor Kurt Butler found U.S. and foreign stocks are more alike in bad times than they are in good markets or mediocre ones.

"When it rains, it pours," Butler said.

Experts also say an emerging global economy is shrinking the difference between U.S. companies and their rivals overseas.

Shares in a Japanese semiconductor manufacturer, for example, respond to the same global market conditions as U.S. chipmakers.

Some stock market theorists are deemphasizing geography,

said Kevin Johnson, a principal at Aronson, Johnson Ortiz LP, a Philadelphia institutional money manager. "They are looking at what the company does for a living, rather than where it does it," he said.

Foreign-fund managers do not dispute growing economic globalization. But they say they now have an ally that will keep them outperforming the U.S. dollar.

The dollar has fallen 26 percent since 2001, according to a Federal Reserve Board index tracking it against a basket of major world currencies.

That is good for American investors: Capital gains — that is profits from share price increases and dividends earned in foreign currencies get an extra boost when the dollar is weakening because euros and yen are worth more when they are converted back into dollars.

The dollar "is one of the strongest reasons to have assets outside of the U.S.," said Richard Foulkes, a London-based manager of the Vanguard International Growth mutual fund.

A weak dollar makes U.S. exports more competitive in world markets.

Meanwhile, U.S. companies with substantial operations abroad also boost currency gains when they convert profits to dollars — just as investors do.

"It is not a crime to avoid international funds," Wolper said.

"Having said that, foreign markets don't move in lock step" with the United States.

Survey finds confidence in economy varies across globe

The Associated Press

LONDON — A global survey of consumer confidence released Wednesday shows that European consumers are generally pessimistic about the economic outlook for the next 12 months, people in the Asia-Pacific region are optimistic and Americans lie somewhere in between.

The AC Nielsen report also found that, across the globe, concerns about the economy, job security and health generally outweighed worries about terrorism or war.

Forty percent of consumers in the Asia-Pacific think their economies improved over the past six months and 53 percent expect them to improve over the next year. Conversely, 48 percent of Americans and 40 percent of Europeans believe their economies had deteriorated over the past six months. However, 43 percent of Americans expected an improvement in the next 12 months, compared to just 31 percent of Europeans.

"I would expect continued caution in Europe, where there are structural and economic issues, as well as concern about growth rates," said Frank Martell, president of AC Nielsen International.

"If you look at the United States, it's clearly more encouraging," Martell added. "There's a lot of government stimulus, monetary and fiscal, and it looks much brighter."

From wire reports

WEDNESDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

INDEXES				
	52-week High	52-week Low	Net Chg	% YTD 52-week Chg
DOW JONES	10,313.51	7,243.46	+25.41	+0.25
S&P 500	1,328.42	945.42	+10.10	+0.75
NASDAQ	2,000.00	1,300.00	+10.00	+0.50
NYSE Composite	1,317.67	945.42	+25.41	+0.25
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NASDAQ	2,000.00	1,300.00	+10.00	+0.50
NYSE Composite	1,317.67	945.42	+25.41	+0.25
DOW JONES	10,313.51	7,243.46	+25.41	+0.25
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Horoscope

Jupiter and Neptune emphasize what we like — and possibly too much of a good thing. If you already know you've got a propensity toward indulgence when it comes to certain substances or people, stay away. Whether it's sugar or an ex-love who is bad for you, it's better to not even go there, especially with so much goodness to be enjoyed.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (November 27). This year provides you with the focus it takes to spend your energy where it's most appreciated. You're aligned with your values, and therefore, new horizons open. Finances improve next month, when you make the most of a circumstantial shift. Caution: Don't overextend in April. Spring's end features a move, perhaps to be closer to a loved one.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Your confidence is your speed pass. Flash your moxie, and you get let behind the velvet ropes of life. Romantic matters must be adjusted to fit the lifestyle of all involved. You'll be surrounded by intellectual talk.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). A relationship has suffered for lack of attention. It's worth it to dig down deep to find your inner romantic heart. Grand (sappy) gestures are required. Pour your heart into it, and love blossoms.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The basic human need to help others is highlighted. Your contributions make your soul feel shiny and new. Neighbors and friends involve you in projects. They'll share the bounty of the work — either way, you win.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). When you give up a struggle, it becomes apparent what's worth fighting for and what is not. You can then choose to get back in the same fight, energy renewed, or pick up a new crusade altogether.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You've become desensitized. Amping up the stakes is the only way to keep

you from complete boredom. Go after love ferociously! Voraciously! As if passion were more important than bread, water and air.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You've been content to hold up the background scenery for too long now. Dare to experience an item that's extremely of the time. A touch of trendiness makes you feel more outgoing, curious and sassy.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You've worked on yourself diligently. You deserve to love someone who is just as evolved. New personality traits attract you — a sly smile, a sure-sounding voice, someone who stands out from the crowd.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). There are good surprises and bad surprises. Right now, you'd prefer no surprises. But if your karma is clean, you have nothing to fear from the unexpected. Potential loves work harder to please you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). What's good for the goose isn't necessarily good for the gander now. Realize that your needs are unique and specific to only you. The better you can articulate that, the more likely you are to smile often now.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Talking risks is what you're good at now, but when you're putting it on the line, how much is too much? You want to know truthfully when you're doing the right thing and when you're blowing it. Ask a Virgin or Leo.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Be aware: Your vibe is strong now. In spite of your efforts to be friendly and inclusive, you're a bit intimidating. This could cause a date to make one too many mistakes, leaving you to cry, "Check, please!"

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You successfully inform family and friends how they can make your life easier. Now, if you could only do the same in regards to your love life. Research how you can add few more skills to your romantic arsenal.

Creators Syndicate

Holiday Mathis



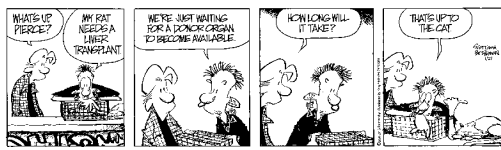
Calvin and Hobbes



Jump Start



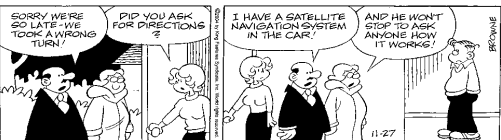
Zits



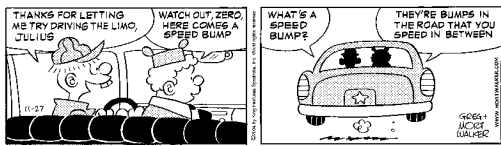
Cathy



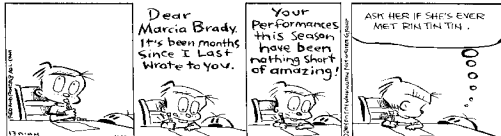
Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



Red and Rover



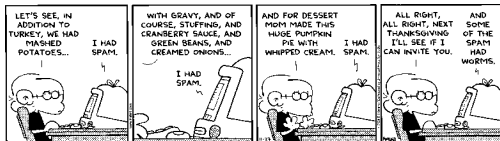
Better or Worse



Peanuts



Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



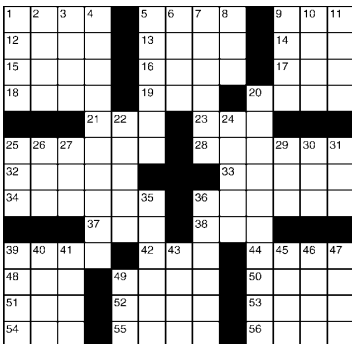
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 Combine resources
5 Old "Alice" spinoff
12 Competent
13 Use a paper towel
15 Nursery rhyme predator
16 One way to stand by
17 Enos' granny
18 "Swell!"
19 Born
20 Audition, maybe
21 Gladstone, e.g.
23 One whose sweater has a Y
25 Lusters
28 Constant complainer
32 Should
33 Frequent "Love Boat" guest
34 Multitude
36 Foursome
37 Away from SSW
38 Mrs. McKinley
39 Nourish
42 Work with
44 Protuberance
48 Unfriendly
49 Actor Pitt
51 Crossword diagram
52 Feminine pronoun
53 Wash
54 Scuttle
55 Differently
56 Verve

Down

- 1 Kasparov soldier
2 Reed instrument
3 Earthenware pot
4 Like Kevin in "Home Alone"
5 Playground fixtures
6 Staffer
7 Ill will
8 "Yoo-hoo!"
9 Gratis
10 St. Helens output
11 Still unpaid
20 Ell
22 Playwright
24 Added alcohol
25 Earth's nearest star
26 Shade
27 Silly Putty container
29 Needlefish
30 Mound stat
31 Scepter
35 Pertaining to the CNS
36 T-shirt pattern
39 Seek by groping
40 Toyota subcompact
41 Examined
43 Lip
45 Evangelist Roberts
46 Prima donna
47 Land west of Nod
49 Spellbound

Answer to Previous Puzzle



11-27

CRYPTOQUIP

OYSU L KGFNLBINTB BDIUT
LCLNUTB TGQSZGFR, N
TDDKGTYS YS QNCYB ZSVGQS
LU LIVY SUQR

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF SOMEONE LEFT ALPHABET SOUP UNATTENDED ON THE BURNER, IT MIGHT SPELL DISASTER.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals P

Big party for baby a bit too much

Dear Abby: Our son is 8 months old, and my wife is busy planning his first birthday party. The party will be in February, which makes it too cold for anything outside.

She plans to invite 50 guests, including children.

Our house is small, so she wants to rent a hall and have the party catered. Is this too much for a first birthday party? We're saving for a new house, and what she has in mind will be expensive.

My wife says I'm cruel for not supporting her idea of a big bash for our son. I think that having an immediate family together, healthy and alive, is special enough. Am I being a curmudgeon?

— Sensible in Norristown, Pa.

Dear Sensible: You're not a curmudgeon—you are someone who has his eye on a goal and

hasn't lost his perspective. The party your wife is planning is really for her, not the baby. All a child that age needs for his birthday is his mommy, his daddy, and a few close relatives to celebrate the occasion with a cake he can put his hands and face into—and, of course, a camera.

Dear Abby



Dear Abby: I am pregnant with my first baby. For some reason, almost every woman I speak to feels the need to tell me about the hell I am about to endure. Apparently I will never spend another minute alone with my husband. My car will be ruined, and my house will be a permanent disaster. Very few people tell me how wonderful it is to be a mom.

I would just ask that when a woman is expecting, please don't assume it's a license to

complain about how terrible it is when your children were young. My husband and I planned this pregnancy, but if I had heard half the horror stories I've heard in the past several months, I probably would have taken a different route.

Mom-to-be in Southern California

Dear Mom-to-be: If parenthood didn't have many rewards, do you think that these doom-spreaders would have had more than one child? While it's only logical that having children is a life-changing experience, it is also an individual process. For some people the adjustment may be painful. However, for many others, the changes are welcome and the joys are bountiful. Think positive and tune the naysayers out.

Letters for this column—with your name and phone number—should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69404, Los Angeles, CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.uxpress.com/dearabby>. Universal Press Syndicate

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

DABNY

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PAROE

DOYLOG

www.jumble.com

RAHBOR

Answer here: A

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argiron



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumbles: PRIME BLOOM PANTRY TALLOW
Answer: What the heaviest diners had at the restaurant — A "WAIT" PROBLEM

Partner makes fiasco of finances

Dear Annie: A major problem in my relationship with my partner is about finances. She has said that I am a better money manager, but she refuses to let me manage it. When she has the checkbook, the bills are never paid on time. She goes through large amounts of money with nothing to show for it and no explanation of where it all went. She can go through \$400 in two days. Once she said it was for her daughter's birthday, but the things she told me she bought didn't come close to that amount.

Every payday is a big battle, and it's taking a huge toll on our relationship. We have been to couples' counseling, where she was told that the money situation in our relationship was completely unbalanced. Still, she made no effort to change.

Annie's Mailbox



checkbook, even though she is making a mess of it and cannot account for some of the money, indicates that she is hiding something. It could be a gambling problem, an addiction, or an inability to add and subtract, but something isn't right.

In most relationships, one person is more adept at handling money, and it doesn't matter if the person is male or female. Your partner needs to be honest about what's going on, or you might have to set up separate accounts. Talk to a credit counselor who will help you create a budget and manage your money responsibly. Try the National Foundation for Credit Counseling (nfcc.org) at 1-800-388-2227.

Dear Annie: I read the letter from "Chevy in Nova Scotia," who bites her nails. You told her to work on her stress levels and maybe get a nice manicure. You

said if all else fails, she should try the OC Foundation.

Please tell her about the wonderful products that can be bought in local pharmacies, often in the nail polish section. You paint them onto your nails, and they taste disgusting. My 8-year-old son stopped sucking his fingers overnight with the help of one of these products. You can find them at www.folicap.com and www.stoppingnails.com.

— Mom in Massachusetts

Dear Mom: Several readers recommended over-the-counter products that taste unpleasant and may help break the habit of biting one's nails or sucking one's thumb.

We have not tried these products and cannot recommend them, but if any readers would like to give them a try, feel free.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

Creators Syndicate

Family Circus



11-27

Circle 61 please. No Cut by King Features Syndicate. www.familycircus.com

"Happily ever after? End of story? Same old cop-out!"

GRAFFITI



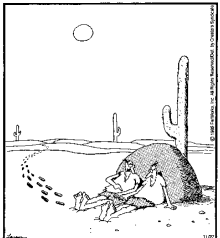
Dennis the Menace



"I LIKE GRANDPA'S ENDING TO THE STORY BETTER THAN YOURS, DAD!"

© Gary Larson

The Far Side



"Are you serious? Look at our am! If anything, I'm twice as fat as you are."

Non Sequitur



YEAH, NEARLY KNOWN. BUT THAT'S WHY I CAN STILL BUY AND SELL YOU, CLAWS.

T-bolves' Olowokandi sits after arrest outside club

The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Minnesota Timberwolves center Michael Olowokandi was arrested early Thursday after police used a stun gun to subdue him when he refused to leave a club.

Olowokandi, 29, was taken into custody about 3 a.m. after he refused to leave Tiki Bob's, said Indianapolis Police spokesman Sgt. Stephen Staletovich.

He was charged with disorderly conduct and criminal trespassing, both misdemeanors, Staletovich said.

The center was suspended by the team for Thursday night's game against the Indiana Pacers for "conduct detrimental to the team," Timberwolves general manager Jim Stack said in a statement.

Olowokandi was held overnight in an Indianapolis jail and released Thursday afternoon.

Staletovich said the club's manager asked police, who were investigating another call, to help him get the 7-foot Olowokandi to leave. He refused, and police shocked him twice with a stun gun until he complied and then took him into custody.

"We are extremely disappointed in Michael Olowokandi's actions on Thursday night," Stack said. "Regardless of how the incident escalated, he never should have been in that situation. The Minnesota Timberwolves do not condone acts of behavior or actions that negatively impact our franchise."

Olowokandi is averaging 5.3 points and 5.2 rebounds this season.

Timberwolves point guard Sam Cassell said the situation would not distract the team.

"Distractions only happen on the court," Cassell said. "Michael's a human being. We support

Sports briefs

him. Let's not jump on him. Let's get all the facts first."

Stack alluded to the Pacers' brawl with Detroit fans last week in chastising Olowokandi. Ron Artest was suspended for the season, Stephen Jackson for 30 games and Jermaine O'Neal for 25 games for fighting with Pistons fans who threw drinks, popcorn, a chair and other debris at them.

"The heightened sensitivity to these types of issues in the league today make his actions even more disappointing," Stack said.

Wizards coach hospitalized

WASHINGTON — Washington Wizards coach Eddie Jordan was hospitalized with a blood clot in his left leg and will miss the next two games.

Jordan, 49, felt discomfort in his leg and was hospitalized Thursday night after consulting with a team trainer, the Wizards said Friday. He was resting comfortably and was expected to remain in the hospital for several days.

Assistant Mike O'Koren will coach the team during Jordan's absence. The Wizards play the Philadelphia 76ers on Friday night and the Toronto Raptors on Sunday.

Jordan is in his second season with the Wizards, after four years as an assistant with the New Jersey Nets. He also coached the Sacramento Kings in the 1997-98 season.

IOC recommends expulsion for Bulgarian official

LAUSANNE, Switzerland — The IOC recommended Friday that Bulgaria's top Olympic official

be expelled from the organization for unethical conduct.

Ivan Slavkov has been suspended from the IOC since Aug. 7 after being implicated in a BBC television investigation into alleged corruption in the bid city process. IOC president Jacques Rogge said the executive board found Slavkov has "not abided by the Olympic charter and he has tarnished the image of the International Olympic Committee."

"There is zero tolerance for unethical behavior in the IOC and today's decision reinforces this position," Rogge said.

The executive board acted on the recommendation of the IOC ethics commission. A final decision goes to the full IOC general assembly, which meets in July in Singapore. A two-thirds vote of the 100-plus members is required for expulsion.

Slavkov was secretly filmed by an undercover crew discussing how votes could be bought in the race for the 2012 Summer Olympics. He contends he knew it was a setup and played along to expose what he thought was a real attempt to corrupt the process.

The 64-year-old Slavkov, president of Bulgaria's national Olympic committee and an IOC member since 1987, is taking legal action against the BBC for using "illegal means of surveillance."

Russia, France advance to Fed Cup championship

MOSCOW — Defending champion Russia and Russia swept their seminals. The doubles and will play for the Fed Cup championship.

French Open champion Anastasia Kuznetsova and U.S. Open winner Svetlana Kuznetsova won singles matches to power Russia past Austria 5-0. France, led by Nathalie Dechy and Tatiana Golovin, defeated Spain by the same score.



Minnesota Timberwolves center Michael Olowokandi, left, was benched for Thursday's game against the Pacers following his arrest outside a nightclub early Thursday morning.

France beat Russia in the semifinals in Moscow last season.

France will be playing in its third final this weekend, having won the previous two. Russia is in the fifth final but has never won.

"If we don't succeed in playing our best tennis, we have no chance to win at all," France captain Guy Forget said. "And if we do manage to play our best tennis from the first point to the last — which is not easy — maybe we have a small chance."

Mykina rallied past Yvonne Meusburger 3-6, 6-3, 6-1 to give Russia an unbeatable 3-0 lead. Kuznetsova then routed Daniela Kix 6-1, 6-4, and the doubles team of Elena Likhovtseva and Kuz-

netsova completed the rout with a 6-2, 6-2 win over Meusburger and Patricia Wartusch.

The Russian team faces a delicate matter after Mykina said she will quit the Fed Cup squad if Maria Sharapova joins the squad next year. Mykina says she doesn't like the Wimbledon champion's father.

Sharapova has never played for the team, and she wasn't invited because of her tight calendar, captain Shamil Tarpishev said.

Mykina said her problem is with Sharapova's father and coach, Yuri.

"I feel his behavior is totally incorrect, simply rude. I don't want to be around people like him," Mykina said.

'Tis the season to try tuning out unruly athletes

By DALE HOFMANN

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

MILWAUKEE — The truly brave and impatient started their holiday shopping Friday while the rest of us enjoy the Christmas music and perfect our procrastination skills. It's a special time of year for everybody, and wouldn't it be nice if the world of sports treated it that way just once?

What do you suppose would happen if athletes, coaches, owners, advertisers, broadcasters and fans designated the weeks between now and New Year's Day as time off for good behavior? They might not know how to act at first, but chances are they would come to them before long.

Naturally, Auburn Hills, Mich., would be the place to start. It might be because we live near Lambeau Field — where players

Dale Hofmann



go into the crowd all the time and the crowd is happy to have them — that the darkness outside Detroit seems especially outrageous. But some good could even come from that.

If all those unpaid suspensions left the Indiana Pacers short on players, at least it improved their cash flow. They could repair some public relations damage by donating the extra money they don't use for signing replacements to food pantries throughout the Midwest for the holidays.

The unrepentant Ron Artest

might want to consider earmarking some of the proceeds from the CD he now has all year to promote to mental health charities. And CD consumers who care about sports should spend their gift allotments on just anything else to send Artest a message.

We're hearing so much these days about the disconnect between athletes and the public. It's expressed at best in grumbling and at worst in thrown cups and chairs, when all the fans really have to do to resolve it is vote with their feet.

Just from now until New Year's, all of the folks who disapprove of acts like Kobe Bryant's adultery or the Pacers' players' thugery should make it a point not to cheer or boo them, but simply to stay home or snap off the TV wherever they appear.

If bad behavior on and off the

playing surface were ever matched in a serious way by falling ratings, game receipts and, most important, salaries, it would be slashed in half before next Christmas. But the Artests, Bryants and Latrell Sprewells of the world will always have jobs until their skills decline to the level of their conduct.

Fans have all the power, but they have no clue how to use it.

Slashing beer on people is not only pathetic and illegal, it's futile. Far better to focus on real heroes.

Holiday note to season ticket holders: Find somebody who's on the way to Iraq or on the way back and give him or her your seats for one game between now and the end of the year. Even if it's a Packers game.

Holiday note to teams: Find those same people and let them in

for free in every game that is not sold out between now and January.

Holiday note to radio and television talking heads: Talk about those generous season ticket holders and teams and suggest to your angry regulars who are forever firing people in their minds to give it a rest for a few weeks. Spend the air time instead on the quiet athletes who give their time and money to important causes because it's right, not because it's a write-off.

Holiday note to players: Look into joining the quiet athletes. And get around to seeing some people in hospitals, nursing homes, schools and Boys and Girls Clubs, because you could be the best gift they get this year. Maybe the only one.

It's a short season. Sports at its best can make it special.

Grizzlies' Brown retires for health reasons

BY TERESA M. WALKER

The Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Hubie Brown said he stepped down as the coach of the Memphis Grizzlies for two reasons: He lost his spirit, and because of medical issues he wants kept private.

"I need, on a daily basis, an energy and a stamina, and then with me it's a spirit," Brown said Friday at a news conference. "But the key is spirit. See, the spirit is what gives you the passion on a daily basis."

"One day you wake up, you don't have that, and that's when you've got to understand that it's a time you've got to walk."

The 71-year-old Brown announced his retirement Thursday night, just seven months after he was selected NBA Coach of the Year for the second time in his long career.

Brown led Memphis to a franchise-best 50-32 record last season and its first playoff appearance. He was given medical clearance to return for his third season with the Grizzlies and had said he had no hesitation coming back.

But he announced his retirement a day after the Grizzlies fell to 5-7 with a 93-84 loss to the Seattle SuperSonics. Brown is 424-495 in the NBA and 528-559 including ABA games.

During the game, Brown was active, ar-



Brown

"My biggest regret is that I didn't meet them when I was in my 40s and 50s because I had more to give than I do now because I was more alert, more astute, more observant ... and I apologized to them because I met them too late in my life."

Hubie Brown
Memphis Grizzlies ex-coach

going with officials, calling out plays and checking on players when they were injured.

Brown was the oldest coach in the NBA when he returned to the league in 2002 after a 16-year break.

"We're going to miss this man tremendously, and more importantly, I think his footprints here ... will be hard to fill," Grizzlies president Jerry West said.

Lionel Hollins was named the team's interim coach and was with the team in Minneapolis for its game Friday night against the Timberwolves.

"Obviously, 'I was saddened by it,'" Hollins said. "Coach Brown has done so much for this franchise and this organization,

and the players that he developed and laid a strong foundation of winning, work ethic and discipline."

Brown said his medical problem developed about three weeks ago.

"People are thinking catastrophic levels ... We're not talking about that," Brown said, declining to be more specific. "I've had things come up that your body gives you a warning sign."

Brown, who led the Kentucky Colonels to the ABA championship in 1975, returned to coaching in 2002 after becoming a TV analyst. He also coached the Atlanta Hawks from 1976-81 and the New York Knicks from 1982-86.

At every stop, Brown's teams won more

games in his first full season than in the previous year.

Brown leaves as the winningest coach in Memphis history with an 83-85 record.

"What Hubie Brown has done for our league in the last two years has been great," Indiana Pacers coach Rick Carlisle said on Thursday. "He brought an injection of life into that Memphis franchise and made them a playoff team."

"He's been a great coach for a long time, but his contributions to our game the last couple of years have been momentous."

His departure news conference lasted 50 minutes as Brown praised the fans, West, and his players. He told his team of his decision before they left for Minnesota.

"I told them you have regrets when you do this. My biggest regret is that I didn't meet them when I was in my 40s and 50s because I had more to give than I do now because I was more alert, more astute, more observant and I saw more," Brown said. "And I apologized to them because I met them too late in my life."

Memphis' Grizzlies forward James Posey said before the season that Brown could have retired at that time without apologizing.

"He could sit back and have a couple of margaritas or something, but he chose to come back and play for the Grizzlies. We're to be around him. He's not going to give in."

Depleted Pacers win again

The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Another improbable win has the Indiana Pacers brimming with confidence.

"Things aren't looking as bad for us as it was four days ago," forward Austin Croshere said.

Indiana has Jamaal Tinsley to thank for that.

Tinsley had 20 points, 14 as-

ists and seven rebounds to lead the Pacers to a 106-102 win over Minnesota on Thursday night, their second win in three games without the suspended Ron Artest, Jermaine O'Neal and Stephen Jackson.

In the absence of their top three scorers, the soft-spoken Tinsley has made the Pacers his team.

"Jamaal Tinsley is the facilitator for us," coach Rick Carlisle said. "Right now, he's doing things very few point guards in the league can do."

Croshere had 25 points and 11 rebounds, and P.J. White added 17 points for the Pacers, who seem to be taking a page out of Olympic gold medalist Argentina's playbook.

The Pacers used teamwork, superior three-point shooting and a relentless point guard to offset talent deficiencies.

Indiana was 13-for-25 from three-point range, consistently beat the Timberwolves to loose balls and made the extra pass for



Indiana Pacers forward Austin Croshere, left, drives to the basket on Minnesota Timberwolves forward Trenton Hassell on Thursday.

wide open shots in their most impressive performance since Artest, Bender, who are all on the injured list, returned to Detroit fans last week.

"On a night like tonight, when it looks like you're outmatched on paper significantly, you can't undersell guys coming together and playing together in front of great fans," Carlisle said.

Kevin Garnett led Minnesota with 23 points and nine rebounds, and Wally Szczerbak added 18 points.

Artest was suspended for the season, Jackson for 30 games, O'Neal for 25 and Johnson for five for their brawl with Detroit fans, who threw bricks, popcorn, a chair and other debris at Pacer players.

Indiana is also without Reggie Miller, Jeff Foster and Jonathan Bender, who are all on the injured list.

Clippers 101, Nets 88: In Los Angeles, Marko Jaric scored 23 points to lead Los Angeles' balanced scoring and the Clippers beat New Jersey to run the Nets' losing streak to seven games.

Elton Brand scored 17 points and Corey Maggette had 16 to help the Clippers end a three-game losing streak of their own.

Richard Jefferson scored 24 points for New Jersey, and Travis Best added 16.

The Nets' slump is their worst since the 2000-01 season, when they also dropped seven in a row from Jan. 23 to Feb. 2.

NBA scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division			
	W	L	Pct
Toronto	6	7	.462
New York	6	7	.462
Philadelphia	5	8	.385
Boston	4	9	.308
New Jersey	2	9	.182
Southeast Division			
	W	L	Pct
Miami	9	6	.600
Orlando	6	6	.500
Washington	5	6	.455
Charlotte	2	8	.200
Atlanta	2	9	.182
Central Division			
	W	L	Pct
Indiana	9	3	.750
Cleveland	7	4	.636
Detroit	5	6	.455
Memphis	3	7	.300
Chicago	1	9	.100

Western Conference

Southwest Division			
	W	L	Pct
San Antonio	9	3	.750
Dallas	8	5	.615
Phoenix	6	6	.500
Memphis	5	7	.417
New Orleans	1	9	.100
Northwest Division			
	W	L	Pct
Seattle	11	2	.846
Utah	7	5	.583
Denver	6	5	.545
Portland	6	5	.545
Pacific Division			
	W	L	Pct
Phoenix	10	2	.833
Sacramento	7	4	.636
L.A. Lakers	6	5	.545
L.A. Clippers	6	5	.545
Golden State	3	7	.300

Thursday's games

Indiana 102, New Jersey 88

Friday's games

Washington at Dallas

Portland at Dallas

Cleveland at Boston

Cleveland at Detroit

Memphis at Minnesota

Houston at Phoenix

New Orleans at Denver

New Orleans at Seattle

Atlanta at L.A. Lakers

L.A. Clippers at Golden State

Saturday's games

Toronto at New York

Atlanta at Charlotte

Philadelphia at Orlando

Chicago at Cleveland

Utah at San Antonio

Denver at Houston

Sunday's games

Washington at Toronto

Golden State at L.A. Clippers

Boston at Miami

New Jersey at Portland

Indiana at Seattle

Minnesota at Sacramento

New Orleans at L.A. Lakers

Thursday

Pacers 106, T-wolves 102

MINNESOTA — Szczerbak 6-10 5-18, Has-

sel 2-10, Garnett 6-12 3-13, E. Johnson 7-12 1-16, Cassell 4-9 2-10, Hudson 8-8-4

2-13, Hubie Brown 2-2-2, Mullen 2-3 0-0

Griffith 2-4 0-5, Totals 37-22 19-21

INDIANA — Jones 5-10 0-13, Croshere

6-11 10-15, Harrison 4-8 0-15, Brown 1-2

2-17, Tinsley 7-14 0-20, Pold 6-13 1-13

Garrett 2-5 2-8, Johnson 1-2 0-5, Totals 37-22 19-21

INDIANA 26 12 20 35-102

INDIANA 26 12 20 35-102

Three-Point Goals—Minnesota 5-14 (Grif-

fin 1-1, Hubie 1-2, Brown 1-2, Szczerbak

1-3, Hudson 1-5, Jones 1-28

5-13, Jones 1-5, Jones 1-4, Best 0-4 1-6

2-3, Johnson 0-1, Foulad out—Madden, Re-

bounds—Minnesota 43 (Garrett 20, Total

fouls—Minnesota 22, Indiana 10, Techni-

cal—Minnesota Defensive Three Second

A-17-149 (18,345).

Clippers 101, Nets 88

NEW JERSEY — E. Williams 5-9 4-8 14, Col-

lins 7-0 0-2, Mourning 1-5 2-2 2 Jefferson

9-16 7-24, Plonick 1-1 1-4, Best 6-9 4-16

Scalabrino 4-10 0-10, Buford 2-11 2-26

A. Williams 2-18 4-4, Vaughn 0-0 0-0, Kovic

1-1 0-1, Storey 1-1 0-0, Totals 33-70 25-18

L.A. CLIPPERS — Simmons 4-7 5-5 13

4-12 8-16, Jaric 6-9 7-8 23, Kaman 3-4 1-7

2-12, Totals 32-31 31-101

New Jersey

22 27 22-80

L.A. Clippers

24 24 22-80

Three-Point Goals—New Jersey 12 (Scal-

abrino 4-10, Maggitt 0-3, Johnson 0-3)

—Nets: Rebounds—New Jersey 44 (Jeff-

erson 15, Williams 6), L.A. Clippers 42 (Brid 7)

Assists—New Jersey 14 (Collins, Jefferson

8), L.A. Clippers 23 (Jaric 9, Best 6)

Total fouls—New Jersey 24, L.A. Clippers 26

A-15259 (18,642).

NBA calendar

Jan. 5 — 10-day contracts may be signed.

Jan. 10 — All-player contracts guaranteed

for rest of the season.

Feb. 18-20 — All-Star weekend, Denver.

Feb. 24 — Trading deadline, 3 p.m. EST.

April 20 — Regular season ends.

April 21 — Playoffs begin.

June 7-10 — NBA predraft camp, Chicago.

June 7 — Earliest possible NBA Finals start

date.

June 21 — Early entry draft withdrawal

deadline.

June 23 — Latest possible NBA Finals start

date.

June 28 — NBA draft, New York.

Respect is taking a beating

Courtesy lies bleeding on the floor. Sportsmanship is in a crumpled heap over in the corner.

Simple civility is face down out in the alley.

And respect ... ah, respect is on life support. Aretha Franklin, the songbird with sweet, contagious soul, spells it out for all of us:

"R-E-S-P-E-C-T."

It's what we're missing in sports these days. And, by extension, in society, too.

We don't honor the game or respect its integrity or credit our foes or feel an obligation to our teammates or a debt of gratitude toward the fans. And in the end, most shameful of all, we dishonor ourselves.

We succumb to the punk philosophy. We celebrate, and then

mimic, the thugs.

Respect? For chumps, and the clueless and the cool-less.

It is not enough merely to win. We must embarrass the other team, humiliate our opponent, pose and flex and snarl, taunt and bait and provoke.

Or flip the bird to that moron in the SUV who cut us off in the mall parking lot.

Or curse the Little League umpire for his call at first base, no matter that he is on top of the play and we are a hundred yards away.

Or stew in our bile at the slowness of the supermarket checkout line in which we are gridlocked.

A college football game in South Carolina begins with a dust-up between opposing teams and ends with a full-field brawl, and the only consolation is that the fans didn't come down out of the stands and the players didn't go up into the stands.

No, that was saved for the professionals, for an NBA game in Michigan, instead.

(Could you not offer a silent but earnest thank-you that this did not occur in Philadelphia? All the

Bill Lyon



old ghosts would have been dragged out of the closet: Santa Claus, the Easter Bunny, snowballs, boos, et al. Folks, we dodged a lightning bolt.)

Now, frighteningly, the boundaries in sport have blurred. The playing field used to be off-limits, and the bleachers, too. But both borders were violated in that Pistons-Pacers game.

There is no sanctuary now. No safe house. No cease-fire zone.

While he was meeting out the punishment, NBA Commissioner David Stern, obviously shaken by the incident, mentioned the sacrosanct "social contract" between players and fans, and how it had been broken.

He meant the unspoken understanding that there were certain things one side didn't do and certain places the other side didn't go. Now that understanding has been breached.

It has been obvious for some time now that there is a sense of disconnect, not just in the NBA but in most sports. The emotional tether is stretched thin. The mix is volatile: Pampered, indulged athletes feel a sense of entitlement and have no perspective at all (a star laments how he cannot feed his family on a paltry \$10 million per annum), and beer-brave provocateurs feel emboldened enough to fling whatever is handy, confident that they can hide in the crowd.



South Carolina football players surround a Clemson player during the brawl near the end of last Saturday's game in Clemson, S.C.

Arrogance and cowardice on parade.

The debate about exactly what the price of admission entitles a spectator to is ever continuing. Common sense should be enough to set those boundaries. But lately our society has blurred that as well because we keep ourselves in such an emotional froth with chat rooms and blogs and TV and radio — whoever-shouts-loudest-wins crossfires.

It is doubtful that many civilians could last for very long in the NBA, where your critics may be sitting only a row behind you. Still, no matter the slur or the indignity, a player cannot go wading into the stands swinging with both fists. Ever.

Or, as a relief pitcher for the Texas Rangers did, throw a chair into the stands.

Nor should fans ever set so much as a big toe over the baseline or the white line.

So, what do we do?

I wish I were smart enough to have an answer.

The usual recommendations after such incidents include beefing up security, though that is all but logistically impossible, and cutting off beer sales early.

Or, we could start simply by being nicer to one another, by practicing a little of that "R-E-S-P-E-C-T."

Too simplistic, too naive, too old-fashioned, right?

Bill Lyon is a columnist for The Philadelphia Inquirer.

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Robinson scores late as Huskies halt Utah

BY DAN JOLING
The Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — Nate Robinson helped stake No. 1 Washington to a big lead early Thursday night against Utah, then helped save off an upset.

Robinson scored 29 points, including eight in the final five minutes, and the Huskies beat Utah 78-71 in the quarterfinals of the Great Alaska Shootout.

After the Utes tied it 66-66 with 2:50 left, the Huskies scored nine straight points to take control. Robinson, held to two points for nearly 15 minutes of the second half, hit three big baskets down the stretch.

Utah's Andrew Bogut, a 7-foot center who's a member of Australia's national team, scored 23 points, including 19 in the second half as the Utes erased an 11-point deficit. He also led the Utes with 12 rebounds.

Brandon Roy added 25 points for Washington (2-0), which will face Oklahoma in the semifinals Friday night. The Sooners beat High Point 93-65.

Robinson hit his first five three-point attempts en route to 19 first-half points. He was also part of a suffocating defense that forced three turnovers and two 5-second violations in the first five minutes as Washington charged to a 16-3 lead. Utah (1-1) got off just six shots in the first eight minutes.

Utah coach Ray Giacoletti said the Utes tried to duplicate Washington's pressure in practice this week, but "you just can't unless you face it."

Huskies coach Lorenzo Romar knew coming in that the Utes like to dictate a deliberate offensive pace.

"Our only hope tonight was to try and pressure them as much as we could and not allow them to just move the ball around the horn at will against us," Romar said.

Behind six points by Justin Hawkins, the Utes used a 10-0 run to close within 21-19 midway through the first half.

After a timeout, Roy hit a reverse layup and Robinson two three-pointers to push the lead back to double digits.

In the second half, Utah chipped away at the lead and twice tied it, the last at 66-66 with 2:50 remaining. Robinson answered with a 12-foot jumper and then with a drive through the post.

Romar said when Robinson was younger, he would have just kept shooting after missing shots early in the second half. On Thursday, the coach added, Robinson showed patience.

"He played within himself, but then down the stretch when we needed a bucket he turned it on again," Romar said. "And great players are able to do that. He picked his spots and when there were openings he was able to come through for us. He made big baskets."

Romar was relieved to escape with a win. "That's a good basketball team. We're talking about one of the top one or two big men in the country in Bogut," Romar said.

"Once he got going in the second half, I thought we were able to see what he was capable of doing — and that's without a whole lot of touches."



Washington's Mike Jensen collides with Utah defender Jonas Langvad (51) while getting off a pass during the first half of Thursday night's quarterfinal game in the Great Alaska Shootout. No. 22 Washington beat the Utes 78-71.

Oklahoma 93, High Point 65: Kevin Bookout had 15 points and 11 rebounds for Oklahoma (2-0) and Drew Lavender added 14 points and seven assists.

The Sooners held High Point (1-1) without a basket for nearly five minutes during a 12-1 run to open the second half that made it 53-28.

Titus Byrd had 16 points for High Point.

Texas too much yet again for Tennessee

BY JIM VERTUNO
The Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — Four and counting. Texas simply owns Tennessee right now.

In what has become a surprisingly one-sided rivalry between two of the dominant programs in women's basketball, No. 4 Texas beat top-ranked Tennessee 74-59 on Thursday night for the Longhorns' fourth straight victory over the Lady Vols.

Tiffany Jackson had 19 points, nine rebounds and a career-high eight blocks in a dominating effort for the Longhorns (2-1).

"Whenever you see Tennessee, you want to bring your best game," Jackson said.

The Longhorns sure do. Since snapping a 13-game losing streak to Tennessee in 2002, the Longhorns have found a way to beat back the Lady Vols' resurgence.

The 15-point margin is the largest during the winning streak and came against a Tennessee team that opened the season at No. 1 in the 11th time in school history.

Texas extended its home winning streak to 38 games, longest in the nation, and won a seven-game losing skid to top-ranked teams. Texas hadn't beaten a No. 1 team since knocking off Tennessee in 1987.

And unless something changes with a chance meeting in the post-season, Texas' six seniors will finish their careers with a perfect record against the Lady Vols.

"I think it's always fun against Tennessee," senior guard Jaime Carey said. "I think we've established a nice little rivalry with them."

Texas coach Jody Conradt, who suffered through each of those 13 straight losses, had to chuckle at that.

"I don't see too much nice about it during the 40 minutes on the court," Conradt said.

The rivalry pits two winningest coaches in the women's game: Tennessee's Pat Summitt (824) and Conradt (819) rank 1-2 in victories.

History aside, this game belonged to Jackson.

"Too much Texas for Tennessee," said Summitt, who spent a frustrating night watching her team shoot just 33 percent while allowing Jackson to hit just about anything she wanted on the other end. There was way too much Jackson.

Jackson hit consecutive baskets and had three blocks in the first two minutes of the second half. She added a short jumper, followed by a midcourt steal and layup, to give Texas a 41-30 lead with about 14 minutes to play.

The Longhorns held a double-digit lead for most of the second half.

Tennessee (3-1) never got in offensively. Shyra Elzy, a preseason All-American, scored just four points on 2-of-10 shooting.

Small-school coach chasing big number

Statham looking for 880th victory at McKendree

BY NANCY ARMOUR
The Associated Press

Harry Statham thought he was making a temporary stop when he took over as McKendree College's basketball coach in 1966.

His dream was to win a state high school championship, but jobs at the premier high schools were hard to come by, especially for a young coach. Statham figured if he could put together a few successful seasons at McKendree, his alma mater, he'd be able to land a better job.

Almost 40 years later, Statham is still at the small NAIA school in Lebanon, Ill. He never did win that state championship, but he's poised for an even greater milestone. With 878 career victories, Statham is one victory shy of Dean Smith's total. And he could match the famed North Carolina coach, who holds the NCAA record, early as Friday night.

"If you coach long enough, those things happen," said Statham, whose Bearcats play Friday night and Saturday afternoon in the Union University Tournament in Jackson, Tenn.

"I just look at it as an event that's going to happen because



McKendree College's Harry Statham is within one victory of a college basketball milestone: His 880th victory, which would surpass the total won by North Carolina's Dean Smith, holder of the NCAA victory record.

I've been here for 39 years and we've had a consistent program with success," he said. "I've had just great kids in our program."

McKendree is a small liberal arts college with 1,500 students, about 25 minutes east of St. Louis. The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics is a rung below the NCAA, but Statham's numbers speak for themselves.

He's topped 20 victories in 29 of his 38 seasons at McKendree and probably will do it again this year, with his team already 7-1.

He's averaging 27 victories over the past 15 years. He's made

it to the postseason 33 times and took the Bearcats to the semifinals of the NAIA national tournament two seasons ago.

He was the NAIA coach of the year for 2002, set that level's career victory record the next season, and is already a member of the NAIA Hall of Fame.

"When I look at our players, that's what makes me proud," Statham said. "It's not one game, it's kind of the compilation of the big events. We did it right. I'm proud to say we didn't bend the rules. We've proved you can do it the right way."

Whether players are wearing short shorts or those baggy ones

that drop below their knees, cutting their hair short or growing it long, Statham has always looked for the same kind of kid. He wants players who are good people, good students and good players — in that order.

"He cares about you as a person before a player," said Chad Stronck, a co-captain this year.

Dennis Korte, who played on Statham's first four teams at McKendree, recalled that seven of the nine Bearcats made the dean's list his freshman year, and McKendree's graduation rate is about 85 percent. You'll never see the mug shot of a McKendree player, and phenoms looking for a place to put up stats for a year or two before cashing in on a big-money NBA contract aren't welcome.

The way Statham's teams play hasn't changed much in 40 years. He's tweaked his offense and defense, adding a twist here and there as the game evolved. And he now recruits foreign players and junior-college transfers.

But the Bearcats are still primarily a fast-break team, just like Adolph Rupp's Kentucky Wildcats that Statham followed.

"Coach Rupp was an idol of mine as a youngster," Statham said. "I loved how they played basketball. We always played fast break and that was primarily why, because I liked their teams so much."

Now Statham has more victories than his idol. Rupp won 876 games, second to Smith in NCAA history.

Palko leads Pitt upset in Backyard Brawl



Pittsburgh quarterback Tyler Palko (3) scores the game-winning touchdown as he drags West Virginia linebacker Adam Lelton into the end zone during the fourth quarter of Pittsburgh's 16-13 win on Thursday.

BY ALAN ROBINSON
The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — He won a game at Notre Dame that appeared lost in the fourth quarter. He won a game against rival West Virginia that appeared lost in the fourth quarter. With every game, Tyler Palko keeps taking the Pitt Panthers farther than they ever expected to go.

Now, after yet another comeback, Palko seems ready to take the Panthers (7-3, 4-2 Big East) where haven't gone in 22 seasons: a New Year's Day bowl game.

"This is a huge step for us," offensive tackle Rob Pettit said of Pittsburgh's 16-13 Backyard Brawl upset on Nov. 21 West Virginia on Thursday night.

"We're sick of people saying we're not good ... of saying we can't win big games. I remember when the season started, and we were like No. 70 in the country. Nobody thought we could do this."

Tyler Palko did.

He convinced the Panthers they could win at Notre Dame for the first time in 18 years, and he led two scoring drives in the final 3 minutes of the 41-38 upset victory on Nov. 13. He convinced the Panthers they could win Thursday night, even when they hadn't scored a touchdown all night and needed to drive nearly 75 yards in the closing minutes to do so.

"That's what I kept hearing when they gave me the keys to this bus — we need a quarterback who can win big games," the sophomore said, referring to Pitt's recent history of failing against its

big rivals and ranked opponents. "I expect to win big games."

Because Pitt suddenly can win such games, the team that barely beat Division I-AA Furman and Big East weakening Temple appears headed to the Gator Bowl on Jan. 1, possibly against Florida State.

And if Syracuse should upset Big East leader Boston College on Saturday, the Panthers would likely wind up with the conference's guaranteed BCS bowl bid and a Fiesta Bowl date against Utah.

Last year, the Panthers finished 8-5 and lost to West Virginia and Notre Dame despite having Heisman Trophy runner-up Larry Fitzgerald. Maybe Fitzgerald needed Tyler Palko, who has thrown for 1,159 yards and 11 touchdowns in his past four games.

"Ever since I've been here, it seems we come up short (in the fourth quarter)," Pettit said. "Tyler Palko won't let us do that. He expects us to win, and he's just great to have in the huddle. He's a great leader."

Palko, the son of one of Pittsburgh's top high school coaches, was only 14 of 38 for 165 yards and an interception but was nearly perfect while leading the decisive 73-yard drive. He completed four consecutive passes on third downs before scoring the go-ahead touchdown on a 2-yard rollout with 4:06 remaining.

The Mountaineers (8-3, 4-2) had a chance to win until quarterback Rasheed Marshall — who ran for 104 yards and passed for 145 — threw incomplete on

fourth and 6 from the Pitt 33 with 42 seconds remaining. The play before, wide receiver Dwayne Thomas just missed completing a flea flicker pass into the end zone to Marshall that H.B. Blades might have tipped.

"It was a play we put in this week," said Marshall, who was without his top receiver, the suspended Chris Henry. "I had my hands on it and I felt it should have been a score."

The Mountaineers also felt it should have been a win, but special teams mistakes doomed them just as they did when Boston College returned two punts for touchdowns in a 36-17 upset in Morgantown on Nov. 13.

Brad Cooper missed two of four field-goal tries, Phil Brady averaged only 29.3 yards on four punts and the Mountaineers twice drew penalties for running into Pitt punter Adam Graessle among their 89 penalty yards.

"They didn't play well enough to beat us. Every time we got an advantage, we hurt ourselves," West Virginia cornerback Adam Jones said. "This one hurts really bad."

West Virginia also caught a bad break when Lee appeared to trap one of his three third-down receptions on the decisive drive, only to be awarded the catch.

Now, instead of the Fiesta or Gator Bowl, the Mountaineers might have to settle for the Insight Bowl.

"This season is not a total loss," coach Rich Rodriguez said.

"We've won eight games this year, but it's very disappointing because we felt we had opportunities to win had we played better."

Notre Dame could play key role in Heisman voting

BY ROBYN NORWOOD
Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES — Matt Leinart was watching from the sideline the night people say Carson Palmer wrapped up the Heisman Trophy.

"It was awesome — Notre Dame playing at the Coliseum with Carson right in the thick of his Heisman campaign, and he has a great game," Leinart said. "It just really kind of solidified his position to win that trophy."

"It's cool that this year it's kind of the same kind of situation — national television, a big game."

With a chance to play for the national championship still in the balance, No. 1 USC has a lot more on the line against Notre Dame on Saturday at Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum than adding another stiff-arming bronze to its collection.

Still, people like to say the Heisman goes through Notre Dame, and this will be as good a test as any of that theory.

Players from Notre Dame have won seven Heismans, more than any other school. They probably have annoyed more winners for other schools as well.

Think Desmond Howard in 1991, when Michigan went for the end zone on fourth and inches from the 25 and Howard stretched out to catch a ball hardly anyone thought he could reach.

Think USC's Charles White in 1979, when he ran for 261 yards, or Pittsburgh's Tony Dorsett in 1976.

A year after Dorsett had set a record that still stands by rushing for 303 yards against the Irish, he ran for 61 on the opening play against them and finished with 181.

There was Roger Staubach in 1963, when he led Navy to its last victory over Notre Dame. And in 1952, it was Oklahoma's Billy Vessels, averaging more than 11 yards a carry in a 195-yard performance.

For years, Notre Dame has been the great barometer — partly because the Irish were always good, and partly because they were always on TV. Not that a spectacular performance against Notre Dame is a prerequisite for winning the Heisman.

The point is, for ages, Notre Dame has been the standard-setter in Heisman races.

But should the Irish still be? Palmer rattled a unit that ranked second in the nation in pass-efficiency defense and was part of a 10-1 team that still had a chance to play in a BCS game.

Leinart will face a 6-4 team that ranks 72nd in pass-efficiency defense, dragged down by a weak secondary that has the Irish ranked 107th among 117 teams in pass yardage defense, giving up more than 261 a game.

People practically wanted to give Purdue's Kyle Orton the Heisman after he'd passed for 385 yards and four touchdowns

against Notre Dame in October, and he isn't even a factor anymore.

Against the Irish, Boston College's Paul Peterson passed for 383 yards, and Pittsburgh's Tyler Palko threw for 334 yards and five touchdowns.

Against the Irish, he put the stamp of approval on everybody these days," said Dick Weiss of the New York Daily News, one of 923 Heisman voters and president of the Football Writers Association of America.

This isn't the last game for Leinart. He'll follow up his performance against Notre Dame with a game against UCLA — 57th in pass defense.

The question is whether playing Notre Dame means as much to Heisman hopefuls as it used to.

"No," said ESPN analyst Beano Cook, a longtime Heisman voter. "Now, everyone's on TV. If it weren't for cable, Barry Sanders doesn't win for Oklahoma State, Andre Ware doesn't win for Houston. Because of cable, you can show the highlights."

But logical or not, when it comes to the Heisman race, Notre Dame still matters.

"It's still a great stage," said Malcolm Moran of USA Today, another voter. "It's not the same rivalry if they're 6-4, but it's still national TV ... and the voters will be watching, because at that point, there's not that much on."

In a murky year for the Heisman, that might matter, as voters ponder whether to give another trophy to Oklahoma's Jason White, honor Leinart for his performance



Southern California quarterback Matt Leinart (1) in action during a game.

in leading the No. 1 team, pluck Utah's Alex Smith from near obscurity or give it to Oklahoma freshman Andrew Peterson or eye-catching USC sophomore Reggie Bush.

"A big night in that kind of spotlight, even though they're a little down, in terms of perception, that moment could be the tie-breaker," Moran said.

And it is about moments, as much as it's about numbers.

Branching out with Deion

Patriots' passing game becomes more dangerous with Branch back

BY HOWARD ULMAN
The Associated Press

FOXBORO, Mass. — For seven straight games, Tom Brady would drop back, look for a receiver and not see one of his favorites, Deion Branch.

That changed last Monday night when the New England Patriots' dangerous combination reconnected as Branch returned from a knee injury.

"He's just a tremendous player," Brady said. "Deion ran some great routes and whenever I saw him I tried to get him the ball."

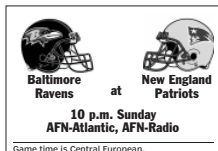
He did that six times for 105 yards in Monday's 27-19 victory at Kansas City. One short completion turned into a 26-yard touchdown when Branch made the catch on the left side, cut across the field and eluded several defenders.

Not bad for his first game in two months. "I felt a little rusty in practice," Branch said. "I think once the game started I was so emotionally high, I think the main thing, I just wanted to go out and help my teammates."

It probably won't be as easy in his next game Sunday against the Baltimore Ravens, who have allowed the fewest points in the NFL and have the third-best pass defense, featuring defensive backs Ed Reed and Chris McAlister.

"I don't think it gets any easier," Branch said. "It's the best defense in the league by far, great linebackers, the secondary is good."

The Patriots did well without Branch, going 6-1. David Givens stepped in as the



primary receiver and caught 33 passes in the seven games. But Branch provides Brady with another talented target and frees up wide receiver Troy Brown to spend more time filling in at cornerback, where starters Ty Law and Tyrone Poole have been sidelined.

"Deion's a great player," Brown said. "He worked hard to get back to where he is. I saw the guy rehabbing and working out and getting himself ready."

Branch had 43 catches as a rookie in 2002 after being drafted in the second round out of Louisville. Last season, he led the Patriots with 57 catches and added 10 more, including the first touchdown, in the 32-29 Super Bowl victory over Carolina.

He started this season with seven receptions and a touchdown in an opening-game victory over Indianapolis. But in the Patriots' next game at Arizona, he made just one catch before being hurt on the last play of the first half.

He was pursuing linebacker James Dar-

ling, who was returning an interception. Guard Stephen Neal was behind Branch and fell into him when blocked from behind by defensive tackle Darnell Dockett.

Branch didn't play again until last Monday.

"You forget how special he is catching the ball and running after the catch," tight end Christian Fauria said. "It's like he never missed a game. He came back in and made a bunch of huge plays for us." Branch was frustrated that he was in the training room trying to get healthy while his teammates were practicing for another game. He didn't even travel to all the road games.

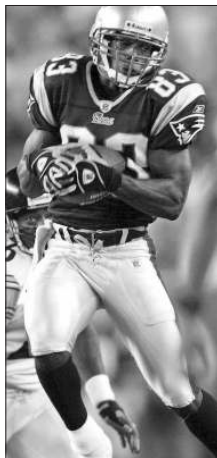
But he wanted to make sure he was completely ready before getting back on the field with Brady.

"I don't think you can contribute and help your team get better being out there 50 to 75 percent (healthy)," Branch said. "You can hurt yourself by doing that, as well."

Brady was in his third season, and second as a starter, when Branch joined the Patriots. It didn't take long for that combination to click.

"We're getting better and learning each other a whole lot more being that we work so hard in the offseason during minkamp and training camp," Branch said. "The comfort level is great. We can only get better."

As long as Branch can avoid injury. "We always like everyone healthy, but the reality of the NFL is you just don't get that very often," Brady said. "So you really need to take advantage when you do get them."



New England's Deion Branch made an auspicious return from the injured list with six receptions for 105 yards and a touchdown last week against the Kansas City Chiefs. On Sunday, he'll go against perhaps the toughest defense in the NFL when the Patriots play the Baltimore Ravens.

McNabb, Owens proving to be formidable tandem

BY ROB MAADDI
The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Donovan McNabb and Terrell Owens have become one of the NFL's most prolific pass-catch combinations in a short time together.

They have connected for a league-best 13 touchdowns this season, helping the Philadelphia Eagles to a 9-1 record and putting Owens in position to challenge Jerry Rice's season record of 22 TD receptions.

A four-time Pro Bowl standout in eight seasons with the San Francisco 49ers, Owens credits his success this year to playing with McNabb, a four-time Pro Bowl quarterback.

"My Thanksgiving came in March when I got to be with Donovan," said Owens, who is on pace to score 21 TDs. "We've both gotten better because of each other's talents. We know that, and we go out to practice every day and we work on things."

Before McNabb and Owens meshed on the field, they clicked away from it. Though they have different personalities, the two are close friends. McNabb is a prankster among teammates, but he's politically correct and conservative in interviews. Owens tends to be more serious in the locker room, but is outspoken and flamboyant on camera.

"He's a looser guy who just enjoys being around teammates and enjoys having a good time," McNabb said.

Owens has been a magnet for



Philadelphia Eagles wide receiver Terrell Owens (81) scores on a 10-yard pass from Donovan McNabb on Sunday against the Redskins.

controversy throughout his career. He argues with coaches, criticized teammates and threw sideline tantrums in San Francisco. He became infamous for his TD celebrations, including posing on the Dallas Cowboys' star and pulling a pen out to autograph a football.

Already this season, Owens has made headlines for his feud with

Baltimore Ravens linebacker Ray Lewis and for taking part in a steamy intro segment with actress Nicolette Sheridan on "Monday Night Football," not to mention his numerous TD celebrations.

Still, Owens' presence hasn't upset the Eagles' chemistry. He has been lauded by his teammates and coaches for his profes-



sionalism, attitude and work ethic.

"Players enjoy having him in that locker room, and he's doing a heck of a job on the football field as a player," Eagles coach Andy Reid said. "The guy was a great player before he came here, and he's a great player now. He's a good person, and he's fit in well."

During Philadelphia's 27-3 loss to Pittsburgh this month, TV cameras caught Owens giving the frustrated McNabb an earful on the sideline. Both players insisted the wide receiver merely was trying to encourage the disheartened quarterback in the animated, one-sided conversation.

So after McNabb and Owens connected for a 59-yard catch-and-run TD in the first quarter of the Eagles' next game against the Cowboys, they mocked the incident by playfully arguing on the sideline.

Owens is just one TD away from setting a team season record and he's two away from winning a bet with Reid that would require the coach to sport

black, spandex tights. With the 49ers, Owens won only the tightest in practice. But when Owens landed in Philadelphia, Reid made him cover the tights with shorts. So they made this wager: If Owens scores 15 TDs, he'll be allowed to shed the shorts, while Reid must don the tights.

"There's no way he can get out of this," Owens said.

While Owens (57 catches, 908 yards) is posting big numbers in his first year with the Eagles, McNabb is having his best season. Heading into Sunday's game at the NFC East rival New York Giants, he's thrown for 2,648 yards, 22 TDs and just five interceptions, and he's also run for two scores. McNabb's completion percentage of 63.8 and quarterback rating of 105.6 are far higher than his career averages.

Before Owens came to Philadelphia, McNabb never had a playmaking receiver. He had to invent some other quarterbacks. Peyton Manning has Marvin Harrison. Daunte Culpepper has Randy Moss. Joe Montana and Steve Young had Jerry Rice. Dan Marino had Mark Clayton. Jim Kelly had Andre Reed.

"The big thing about T.O. is that he works extremely hard to be the best at what he does," McNabb said. "You see him at practice and he's out competing hard and getting in a good workout. It just so happens when he gets in the end zone, he'll exert a little more energy than usual with his dances. But we have no problem with his dances — although some of them he needs to work on."

Henson's time will have to wait

Testaverde replaces rookie, leads fourth-quarter rally in win over bumbling Bears

BY JAMIE ARON
The Associated Press

IRVING, Texas — Bill Parcells wants to develop Drew Henson into an NFL quarterback and he wants to win games. If he has to pick one, he'll take winning every time.

So with the Dallas Cowboys and Chicago Bears playing terribly and tied at halftime, Parcells decided he'd seen enough from the rookie. He pulled Henson from his first start, turned to Vinny Testaverde and walked away smiling with a 21-7 victory Thursday, ending a three-game losing streak and winning for the just second time since September.

"I'm going to relax and enjoy this," Parcells said. "I don't know whether we were going to get another one or not for a while."

At least the Cowboys (4-7) came away feeling good about one youngster on offense, running back Julius Jones. The second-round pick from Notre Dame followed his 81-yard, 30-carry performance in his starting debut last Sunday with 150 yards and two touchdowns on 33 carries.

This game was going to be memorable for Jones regardless of the outcome because he was starting against his big brother, Chicago running back Thomas Jones. That Jones was the best thing the Bears (4-7) had on offense, too, with 46 yards on 14 carries and 48 more on six receptions weren't enough.

When time expired, they shared a long hug, with Thomas holding Julius' head and whispering congratulations into his ear. They then smiled and posed for pictures.

"It was really a blessing for me to be out there and playing with my brother and having all my family watching me," Julius Jones said. "It's something we dreamed about."

Henson also dreamed about this opportunity, his first NFL start and his first in a meaningful game since the Citrus Bowl on Jan. 1, 2001, when he was a junior at Michigan. He spent the past three years playing baseball in the New York Yankees organization and decided to return to football late last year.

He made his debut five days earlier, going 6-for-6 with a touchdown at the end of a lopsided loss after Testaverde was hurt.

Parcells was reluctant to start Henson, but had to give him most of the work in practice while Testaverde rested.

Henson seemed to pick up where he'd left off, leading a 62-yard, five-play drive that included a nifty 33-yard touchdown run by Julius Jones. But the only points Henson produced the rest of the half were for Chicago — an interception that K.W. McClure returned 45 yards for touchdown.

Henson went into halftime four of 12 for 31 yards. Parcells told him, "Good job," and that he was going with Testaverde.

Testaverde spent the second half mostly standing alone, flipping through overhead pictures and listening to play calls.



Dallas quarterback Drew Henson made his first NFL start on Thursday and was pulled after the first half.

"You go in and try not to make mistakes, but the times that you do, you just learn from it," Henson said. "There were a couple of throws I'd like back, but we got out of here with a win. That's something to build on."

The way Dallas has been playing, fans would gladly trade losses to get experience for Henson. He got the loudest cheers in pregame introductions and Testaverde was booed when he took over.

"I know everyone has been clamoring for this. I don't care," Parcells said. "I've got other peoples' interests to consider. I really don't care. I'm going to do what I think is best."

Testaverde started slowly, then in the fourth quarter capped a Julius Jones-led drive with a 2-yard touchdown pass to Darian Barnes. An interception on Chicago's next snap brought the Cowboys right back onto the field and soon thereafter Jones scampered 4 yards up the middle for his second touchdown.

Parcells wouldn't say who will start at quarterback at Seattle on Monday night.

The Bears lost their second straight since winning three in a row. Again, an ineffective offense was mostly to blame.

Rookie quarterback Craig Krenzel was 5-for-10 for 46 yards, then left with a strained ankle midway through the second quarter.

Replacement Jonathan Quinn was 10-for-21 for 86 yards and two interceptions, both in the fourth quarter.

Bears coach Lovie Smith is so exasperated by his quarterback play that he jokingly asked a reporter, "Can you play quarterback?"

"The defense kept us in it," Smith said. "We had a chance to win."

Chicago could've gone up 10-7 in the third quarter, but Paul Edinger missed a 48-yard field goal. The Bears lost the game away, and Manning watched the fourth quarter from the bench.

Indianapolis is 8-3 and leading the AFC South, but as good as the offense is, the Colts are almost as shaky on the other side of the ball. The defense has played better the past three games, but still ranks 31st in yards allowed.

Stokley and others expect Manning to throw at least four touchdown passes a

NFL scoreboard

American Conference

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	9	1	0	.909	204	171
N.Y. Giants	9	1	0	.909	212	165
Buffalo	9	1	0	.909	212	165
Miami	1	9	0	.100	140	239
South						
Indianapolis	3	0	0	.727	380	210
Jacksonville	6	4	0	.600	166	161
Houston	4	6	0	.400	159	239
Tennessee	4	6	0	.400	186	212
North						
Pittsburgh	1	0	0	.900	240	161
Baltimore	7	3	0	.700	204	140
Cincinnati	4	6	0	.400	183	188
Cleveland	4	6	0	.400	177	208
West						
Denver	7	3	0	.700	233	167
San Diego	7	3	0	.700	205	193
Oakland	7	3	0	.700	182	207
Kansas City	3	7	0	.300	276	265

National Conference

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Philadelphia	9	1	0	.909	269	159
N.Y. Giants	9	1	0	.909	158	173
Dallas	4	7	0	.364	193	289
Washington	7	0	0	.300	131	178
South						
Atlanta	4	6	0	.400	208	194
Tampa Bay	4	6	0	.400	192	182
Carolina	4	6	0	.400	211	286
North						
Green Bay	6	4	0	.600	256	230
Minnesota	6	4	0	.600	256	245
St. Louis	4	6	0	.400	192	197
Chicago	4	6	0	.400	211	286
West						
Seattle	4	6	0	.400	230	254
Arizona	4	6	0	.400	177	214
San Francisco	1	9	0	.100	175	286

Thursday's games

Indianapolis 41, Detroit 9
Dallas 21, Chicago 7

Tennessee at Houston
Washington at Pittsburgh
Philadelphia at N.Y. Giants
Cleveland at Cincinnati

Tampa Bay at Carolina
Jacksonville at Minnesota
New Orleans at Atlanta
Buffalo at Seattle

N.Y. Jets at Arizona
Miami at Seattle
Baltimore at New England
Oakland at Denver

Monday's game

St. Louis at Cincinnati

Thursday

Colts 41, Lions 9

Indianapolis 13 14 14 0-41
Detroit 6 3 0 0-41

Ind-Stokley 4 pass from Manning (Vanderjagt kick), 2:20.

DET.—FG Hanson 20, 7:16.
Ind-Stokley 12 pass from Manning (kick blocked), 4:20.

DET.—FG Hanson 34, 10:20.

Ind-Stokley 5 pass from Manning (Vanderjagt kick), 2:20.

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DET.—FG Hanson 34, 10:20.

Lions' Drummond out for year

The Associated Press

ALLEN PARK, Mich. — A fractured shoulder blade will keep Detroit Lions return specialist Eddie Drummond out for the remainder of the season.

A CT scan showed a minor break, coach Steve Mariucci said Friday.

The team had not decided whether to place Drummond on injured reserve.

"He's going to be out," Mariucci said. "The sad part is that this probably keeps him off the Pro Bowl ballot."

Drummond, who has scored on four punt and kickoff returns this season, was hurt on the opening kickoff of the second half of Detroit's 41-9 Thanksgiving Day loss to Indianapolis.

He will miss the chance to be the first NFL player with five scores off punt or kickoff returns in a season.

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Records: Manning's memorable season might be short of Super

RECORDS, FROM BACK PAGE

least four TD passes in five straight games and having 41 in 11 games.

He wasn't just throwing the words so the guys he plays with would be happy. Yes, he got a \$34.5 million signing bonus this year, but that and the rest of his \$98 million contract wasn't given to him simply to get his name in the record book.

"I feel uncomfortable talking about anything individual," Manning said. "I just want to keep winning."

His teammates weren't so reserved.

"When he's retired, they'll compare every pass to Peyton Manning, without a doubt," said Brandon Stokley, who caught three of Manning's touchdown passes in a 41-9 romp over the Detroit Lions.

"It's awesome what he's doing and it's awesome what our team is doing," offensive tackle Tarkie Glenn said.

Awsome may not be the word to describe the Colts, though it might be if they could play the Lions every week. Two touchdown passes in 90 seconds of the second quarter put the game away, and Manning watched the fourth quarter from the bench.

Indianapolis is 8-3 and leading the AFC South, but as good as the offense is, the Colts are almost as shaky on the other side of the ball. The defense has played better the past three games, but still ranks 31st in yards allowed.

Stokley and others expect Manning to throw at least four touchdown passes a

game, but the deeper you go into the playoffs the harder that is to do.

"There is going to be a time, or there might be three times, when you have to shut people down," coach Tony Dungy said.

Even less encouraging for the Colts making a Super Bowl run for the first time since 1970 when they were in Baltimore and led by a quarterback named Johnny Unitas is that Indianapolis will likely have to go on the road and win in a cold place like Pittsburgh or New England.

And, if the Colts don't get it done this year, it figures to get even tougher. Both Peyton Manning and Steve McNair are free agents and, with Manning's huge contract, it's unlikely Indianapolis can afford to keep both.

For now, though, this season is rapidly nearing an end. Just five regular-season games remain, and the Colts can start peaking ahead to some possible playoff matchups that might get them in the Super Bowl.

"That's the goal. That's what it's always been for me," Manning said. "We've been knocking on the door. Hopefully, we'll have an opportunity to get to the playoffs. That's all we want to do — get to the playoffs and maybe try to get hot."

If they do, Manning just might get the ring that helps define great quarterbacks.

If not, it will be a long offseason no matter how many times his name goes in the record books.

Tim Dahlberg is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press. Write to him at: tdahlberg@sp.org

SPORTS



While Branch is catching on again with the Patriots, Eagles WR Owens hauls in more accolades, Page 30



Records, not rings, within reach



With six touchdown passes Thursday at Detroit, Colts quarterback Peyton Manning (18) seems a clinch to break the season record for TD passes.

Peyton's place in history might hinge on Colts' problematic postseason woes

BY TIM DAHLBERG
The Associated Press

Peyton Manning had barely made it to the locker room, and already the talking heads on the network NFL shows were debating his place in history.

Two of them had more than a passing interest in what will almost certainly become the greatest one season passing display by an NFL quarterback.

Dan Marino watched as Manning threw six touchdowns in less than three quarters, breaking one of his records in the process. Barring a broken right arm, he's also a lock to erase the record of 48 touchdown passes in a season Marino set in 1984.

"I thought 48 was something no one would touch or get close to," Marino said.

Marino has held the record for 20 years, but



Most TD passes in a season

Dan Marino, Mia. '84 ...48
Dan Marino, Mia. '86 ...44
P. Manning, Ind. '04 ...41
Kurt Warner, St.L. '99 ...41
Brett Favre, G.B. '96 ...39

Manning needs just eight touchdown passes in his next five games to take it away.

Unlike Marino, Terry Bradshaw owns something no one can take away — four Super Bowl rings. Marino may be the career passing yardage leader with 61,361 yards, but he got to the big game only once — in his second season — and never won one in 17 years.

Statistics are great to settle bar bets, and they're a good way to fill up record books. But great players are remembered by how much they won, and Marino's legacy will always be tarnished by the fact he never won the big one.

Bradshaw did, so allow him some slack for bragging about it on Thanksgiving Day.

"My passing rating? It was four Super Bowls," Bradshaw said.

Manning hopes to someday be able to make a similar claim for himself. He's already won an MVP award and figures to win another this year unless he and the Indianapolis Colts collapse in the final month of the season.

But right now Manning has more in common with Marino than he has with Bradshaw. He's easily the most talented quarterback in the league — not to mention the highest paid — but he's in his seventh year and hasn't sniffed a Super Bowl yet.

Before last year, in fact, Manning hadn't even won a playoff game.

Manning knows that as well as anyone. As unapplicable as he was on the field Thursday, he became just as flustered afterward when asked about setting an NFL record with at

SEE RECORDS ON PAGE 31



Henson struggles before being pulled; Jones carries Cowboys to victory

Page 31



Led by Palko, Pittsburgh wins the Backyard Brawl and keeps alive BCS hopes

Page 29



Fourth-ranked Texas takes down top-ranked Lady Vols

Page 28

Grizzlies coach Brown steps down because of health problems Page 26